BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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Assembly Proceedings

Official Report

Bengal Legislative Assembly

Seventh Session, 1940

The 15th, 16th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th
February, 1940

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency SIR JOHN ARTHUR HERBERT, G.C.I.E.

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(3) The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY, in charge of the Revenue Department.

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(6) The Hon'ble Mr. HUSEYAN SHAHEED SUHRAWARDY, in charge of Finance, Commerce and Labour Departments.

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(8) The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT, in charge of the Forests and Excise Departments.

(9) The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK, in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Departments.

(10) The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN, in charge of Agriculture and Industries (including Veterinary) and Rural Reconstruction Departments.

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SPEAKER.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.

DEPUTY SPEAKER.

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SECRETARY.

K. ALI AFZAL, Esq., Barrister-at-law.

FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Rai N. N. SEN GUPTA Bahadur.

SECOND ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

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REGISTRAR.

K. C. GHOSH, Esq.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md. [Narayanganj East (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza. [Tangail West (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hafiz Mia, Mr. [Kurigram South (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hakeem, Mr. [Khulna (Muhammadan).]

Abdul Hakim, Maulvi. [Mymensingh West (Muhammadan).]

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Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr. [Serajganj North (Muhammadan).]

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Ashraf Ali, Mr. M. [Nator (Muhammadan).]

Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Tippera Central (Muhammadan).]

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Azizul Haque, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M., C.I.E. [Nadia West (Muhammadan).]

B

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Barma, Mr. Puspajit. [Rangpur (General).]
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad. [Dinajpur (General).]
Barman, Babu Upendra Nath. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Siliguri (General).]
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Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar. [Calcutta East (General).]
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Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah (European).]
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan. [Nadia (General).]
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal. [Jessore (General).]
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath. [Faridpur (General).]
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Brown, Mr. A. O. [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]

C

Chakrabarty, Mr. Jatindra Nath. [Rangpur (General).]
Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (General).]
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Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath. [24-Parganas Municipal (General).]
Chippendale, Mr. J. W. (Anglo-Indian.)
Clark, Mr. I. A. [Burdwan Division (European).]

D

Das, Mr. Mahim Chandra. [Chittagong (General).]
Das, Babu Radha Nath. [Hooghly North-East (General).]
Das, Mr. Anukul Chandra. [24-Parganas North-West (General).]
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Das, Mr. Monomohan. [Mymensingh East (General).]
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Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath. [Bakarganj South-West (General).]

Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath. [Tippera (General).]

Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath. [Jhargram *cum* Ghatal (General).]

Dutt, Mr. Sukumar. [Hooghly South-West (General).]

Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira. [Calcutta General (Women).]

Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu. [Barrackpore (Registered Factories).]

E

Edbar, Mr. Upendranath. [Bakarganj South-West (Genera

Emdadul Haque, Kazi. [Kurigram North (Muhammadan).]

F

Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M. [Jangipur (Muhammadan).]

Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum. [Dacca (Muhammadan) Women.]

Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. [Patuakhali North (Muhammadan).]

Fazlul Qadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Chittagong North-West (Muhammadan).]

Fazlur Rahman, Mr. [Jamalpur East (Muhammadan).]

Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca University.)

French, Mr. F. H. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

G

Ganguly, Mr. Pratul Chandra. [East Bengal Municipal (General).]

Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna. [Jessore (General).]

Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Jamalpur West (Muhammadan).]

Golam Sarwar Hosaini, Mr. Shah Syed. [Ramganj *cum* Raipur (Muhammadan).]

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Goswami, Mr. Tulsi Chandra. [Burdwan Division North Municipal (General).]

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Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra. [Calcutta South Central (General).]

Gupta, Mr. J. N. [Railway Trade Union (Labour).]

Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh. [Darjeeling (General).]

Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Al-Hadj. [Madaripur East (Muhammadan).]

H

Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca. [Dacca Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi. [Thakurgaon (Muhammadan).]

Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib. [Kishoreganj East (Muhammadan).]

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Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi. [Pirojpur South (Muhammadan).]

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Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

I

Idris Ahmed Mia, Mr [Malda South (Muhammadan).]

Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H. [Calcutta South (Muhammadan).]

J

Jalaluddin Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Cox's Bazar (Muhammadan).]

Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed. [Satkhira (Muhammadan).]

Jalan, Mr. I. D. [Calcutta West (General).]

Jasimuddin Ahmed, Mr. [24-Parganas South (Muhammadan).]

Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi. [Chandpur East (Muhammadan).]

K

Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Netrokona South (Muhammadan).]

Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed. [Murshidabad South-West (Muhammadan).]

Kennedy, Mr. I. G. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)

Khaitan, Mr. Debi Prosad. (Indian Chamber of Commerce.)

Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall. [Midnapore Central (General).]

Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra. [Malda (General).]

Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath. [Dinajpur (General).]

M

MacGregor, Mr. G. G. (Indian Tea Association.)

Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr. [Bogra North (Muhammadan).]

Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi. [Tippera North (Muhammadan).]

Mafizuddin Choudhury, Maulvi. [Balurghat (Muhammadan).]

Maguire, Mr. L. T. (Anglo-Indian.)

Mahatab, Maharajkumar Uday Chand. [Burdwan Central (General).]

Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Dinajpur Central West (Muhammadan).]

Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari. [Midnapore South-East (General).]

Maitra, Mr. Surendra Mohan. [North Bengal Municipal (General).]

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Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova. [Dacca (General) Women.]

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Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal. [Mymensingh West (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari. [Burdwan North-West (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra. [Faridpur (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra. [Tippera (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath. [Bakarganj North-East (General).]

Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad. [Midnapore Central (General).]

Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi. [Rajshahi North (Muhammadan).]

Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md. [Chittagong South Central (Muhammadan).]

Maqbul Hosain, Mr. [Tippera North-East (Muhammadan).]

Marindin, Mr. F. J. [Chittagong Division (European).]

Masud Ali Khan Panni, Maulvi. [Tangail South (Muhammadan).]

Miles, Mr. C. W. (Indian Tea Association.)

Millar, Mr. C. [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]

Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur. [Bogra West (Muhammadan).]

Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md. [Meherpur (Muhammadan).]

Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad. (Calcutta University.)

Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E. [Presidency Division (European).]

Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi. [Rajshahi Central (Muhammadan).]

Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md. [Bhola North (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Afzal, Khan Sahib Maulvi Syed. [Pirojpur North (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi. [Noakhali North (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi. [Bogra South (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Israil, Maulvi. [Kishoreganj South (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed. [Bankura (Muhammadan).]

Muhammad Solaiman, Khan Sahib Maulvi. [Barrackpore Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Mukerji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan. (Hooghly North-East.)

Mukherjee, Mr. B. [Colliery (Coal Mines) (Labour).]

Mukherji, Dr. H. C. [Calcutta *cum* Presidency Division (Indian Christian).]

Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra. [Birbhum (General).]

Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behari. [Khulna (General).]

Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary. [Howrah (General).]

Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh. [Bankura West (General).]

Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Darjeeling (Muhammadan).]

Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed. [Bagerhat (Muhammadan).]

Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi. [Brahmanbaria North (Muhammadan).]

N

Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar, (Presidency Landholders.)

Nasarullah, Nawabzada K., Parliamentary Secretary. [Brahmanbaria South (Muhammadan).]

Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East (General).]

Nausher Ali, Mr. Syed. [Jessore Sadar (Muhammadan).]

Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E. [Calcutta North (Muhammadan).]

Nooruddin, Mr. K. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Norton, Mr. H. R. (Calcutta Trades Association.)

P

Pain, Mr. Barada Prosanna. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (General).]

Patton, Mr. W. C. [Darjeeling (European).]

Paul, Sir Hari Sankar. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)

Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan. [Malda (General).]

R

Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. M. L. [Rajshahi Central (Muhammadan).]

Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Siliguri (General).]

Rajibuddin Tarafdar, Maulvi. [Bogra East (Muhammadan).]

Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Tippera West (Muhammadan).]

Ray Choudhury, Mr. Birendra Kishore. [Mymensingh East (General).]

Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr. [Dacca South Central (Muhammadan).]

Roy, Mr. Patiram. [Khulna (General).]

Roy, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh. (Burdwan Landholders.)

Roy, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar. (Rajshahi Landholders.)

Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra. [Mymensingh West (General).]

Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy. [Dacca East (General).]

Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna. [Bankura East (General).]

Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar. [Dacca West (General).]

Roy, Mr. Kishori Pati. [Jhargram *cum* Ghatal (General).]

Roy, Rai Bahadur Kshirod Chandra. (Chittagong Landholders.)

Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath. [Howrah (General).]

S

Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr. [Bakarganj South (Muhammadan).]

Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji. [Rangpur North (Muhammadan).]

Sahabe Alum, Mr. Syed. [Dacca Central (Muhammadan).]

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Sanaullah, Dr. [Chittagong North-East (Muhammadan).]

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Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar. [Murshidabad (General).]

Sarker, Babu Madhusudan. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (General).]

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Sassoon, Mr. R. M. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

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Sen, Babu Nagendra Nath. [Khulna (General).]

Sen, Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East (General).]

Serajul Islam, Mr. [Bongaon (Muhammadan).]

Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E., Parliamentary Secretary. [Narayanganj South (Muhammadan).]

Shahedali, Mr. [Matlabbazar (Muhammadan).]

Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Kusthia (Muhammadan).]

Shamsuddin Ahmed Khandkar, Mr. [Gopalganj (Muhammadan).]

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Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan. [Bankura West (General).]

Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda. [Bengal Dooars (Western) Tea Garden Labour.]

Smith, Mr. H. Brabant. [Rajshahi Division (European).]

Stark, Mr. A. F [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]

Steven, Mr. J. W. R. [Dacca (European).]

Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. [24-Parganas Municipal (Muhammadan).]

Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar. [Noakhali (General).]

T

Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr. [Faridpur West (Muhammadan).]

Tapuriah, Rai Bahadur Moongtu Lall. (Marwari Association.)

Thakur, Mr. Promatha Ranjan. [Faridpur (General).]

Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji. [Bhola South (Muhammadan).]

W

Waliur Rahman, Maulvi. [Jessore East (Muhammadan).]

Walker, Mr. J. R. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Walker, Mr. W. A. M. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)

Whitehead, Mr. R. B. (Indian Mining Association.)

Wordsworth, Mr. W. C. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Y

Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr. [Faridpur East (Muhammadan).]

Yusuf Mirza. [24-Parganas Central (Muhammadan).]

Z

Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi. [Malda North (Muhammadan).]

Zaman, Mr. A. M. A. [Hooghly *cum* Serampore (Registered Factories) Labour.]

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

Official Report of the Seventh Session.

Volume LVI—No. 1.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 15th February, 1940, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.), in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 220 members

Oaths.

The following members took their oath of allegiance to the Crown:—

Mr. Rogers Haywood.

Mr. A. F. Stark.

Panel of Chairmen.

Mr. SPEAKER: In accordance with the provisions of rule 6 of the Bengal Legislative Procedure Rules, I nominate the following members of the Assembly to form a Panel of four Chairmen for the ensuing session:—

(1) Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose,

(2) Mr. W. A. M. Walker,

(3) Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, and

(4) Mr. Fazlur Rahman, of Dacca.

Unless otherwise arranged, the senior member among them present in the above order will preside over the deliberations of this Assembly in my absence and in the absence of the Deputy Speaker.

We will now take up questions.

Questions unanswered in the last session.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, a number of questions have been held over from the previous session and you were pleased to direct on the concluding day of the last session that they would be taken up on the first day of this session. Those questions begin from No. 133 (starred) of the last session.

Mr. SPEAKER: As a matter of fact, the replies that are now being given relate to questions of which notices were given during the last session, but in order that they may not be congested and answered in one day we have tried to put in, say, 25 questions a day which may be answered in the normal course of a day.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I take it that those questions which were laid on the table on the last day of the last session, but could not be answered on that day, are being repeated now in this manner?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Then I submit, Sir, that in reply to some of those questions it was answered that enquiries were being made or that further information was being collected. I hope, Sir, that now the Hon'ble Ministers will be in a position to give a complete answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, unless we get full answers we generally do not publish them.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Election of Jhargram Local Board, Midnapore.

*1. **Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what arrangement has been made to notify the date of election of Jhargram Local Board, Midnapore;

(*ii*) what are the dates when the elections of other subdivisions were held; and

(*iii*) when the names of the candidates elected from other subdivisions are likely to be published or does the Hon'ble Minister propose to hold a fresh election for those subdivisions?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for the delay in the publication of the names of the elected candidates?

MINISTER in charge of the LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (*a*) (*i*) The District Magistrate of Midnapore has been already asked by Government to take necessary steps for holding the election of the Jhargram Local Board as early as possible.

(*ii*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*iii*) and (*b*) Rule 48 of the Local Self-Government Election Rules which is a statutory rule requires that the names of elected and nominated members of Local Boards should be published in the same Gazette. The names of members elected from the other subdivisions will be published as soon as a decision has been reached by Government as regards the appointment of members on those Boards under section 11 of the Local Self-Government Act. No question of holding a fresh election to these bodies arises.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) (ii) of starred question No. 1.

Sadar Local Board—20th February, 1939.

Tamluk Local Board—20th and 21st February, 1939.

Contai Local Board—7th January, 1939.

Ghatal Local Board—9th January, 1939.

MEMORANDUM.

Why the election of members of Jhargram Local Board has been delayed?—In view of the fact that a considerable portion of the Jhargram subdivision is covered neither by Chaukidari Unions nor by Village Self-Government Unions, Government were advised by the Legal Remembrancer to the effect that under rule 23 of the Local Self-Government Election Rules no valid electoral roll could be prepared and published for the purpose of election of members of the Jhargram Local Board and that any election held on the basis of an illegal electoral roll would be invalid. The Commissioner of the Burdwan Division was accordingly informed that, in the circumstances, there was no other alternative but to drop the proceedings relating to the

election to the Jhargram Local Board pending amendment of the election rules but the elections to the other Local Boards in the district should be proceeded with in the meantime.

The general elections of the Local Boards in the district, except Jhargram, have accordingly been held, namely, Sadar on 20th February, 1939, Tamluk on 20th February, 1939, and 21st February, 1939, Contai on 7th January, 1939, and Ghatal on 9th January, 1939, and proposals for nomination of members to these Boards have also been received by Government.

Why names of elected members of Local Boards other than Jhargram could not be published in the Gazette? Rule 48 of the Local Self-Government Election Rules requires that the names of elected and nominated members of Local Boards should be published in the same Gazette. As the proposals were under the consideration of Government, the names of members elected from other Local Boards in the district could not be published.

Why decision as regards the appointment of members of this Board is not yet being reached by Government?—Enquiries as regards the selection of suitable persons for appointment in the board are in progress.

When will Government decision be reached?—The final decision by Government will be reached as soon as such enquiries have been completed.

When will the elections of the Jhargram Local Board be held and why are they being delayed? With regard to the general election of the Jhargram Local Board necessary amendments have been made in the Election Rules and the amendments have been published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 14th December, 1939. Under the penultimate paragraph of section 138 of the Local Self-Government Act, the amended rules will come into force after three months from the date of their publication, i.e., from the middle of March next. The District Magistrate, Midnapore, has, however, been requested to take necessary steps for holding the election of this Local Board as early as possible.

When will the appointments of members of the Jhargram Local Board be made under section 11 of the Local Self-Government Act?—After the elections are over.

Procedure regarding appointment of head clerks and sheristadars in Collectorates.

***2. Mr. S. A. SALIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether there is a Government Circular that the posts of head clerk and *sheristadar* in the Collectorates of Bengal are to be notified before they are filled up; and

(*ii*) whether the appointments of the present head clerk and the *sheristadar* of the Dacca Collectorate were made in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Circular?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) and (*b*) Do not arise.

Floods in Hasnabad and Sandeshkhali police-stations, 24-Parganas.

*3. **Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware that floods have destroyed the crops of Sandeshkhali police-station and in particular Hasnabad police-station of the Sunderban (Basirhat subdivision, 24-Parganas)?

(*b*) Have the Government received any representation on the subject from the local people?

(*c*) If so, have the Government considered the petitions and representations made by the peasants of the affected areas praying for—

(*i*) immediate remission of rent for the year at least; and

(*ii*) grant of agricultural loan?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the result thereof?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) No. There was however slight damage and most of the affected lands have been retransplanted.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) and (*d*) Do not arise.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what precisely he means by the words "the affected lands have been retransplanted"?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Well, Sir, retransplantation means retransplantation.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Does it mean that the crops damaged on account of the flood were again raised by a second crop from the said area?

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, it is not the crops which were retransplanted, but it is the lands which were retransplanted.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in what respects they have been retransplanted?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Retransplantation means——

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: But, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister was going to answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: But he need not do that.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what was the extent of the damage? He says "there was slight damage", and I would like to know what was the percentage of that damage?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I want notice.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state how exactly he ascertained the extent of the damage caused by the flood in that area?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: By local enquiry.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that huge tracts of lands have been lying fallow as a result of the floods caused by the deposit of salt on the lands which have rendered them uncultivable?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: That is not my information.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Has the Hon'ble Minister made any attempts to find out whether in the affected areas any crops have so far been actually raised after the floods?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Sir. I have mentioned in my reply that there was a slight damage and most of the affected lands have now been retransplanted.

Allegations against Kalocho Debt Settlement Board.

*4. **Mr. JONAB ALI MAJUMDAR:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department aware—

(i) that a large number of people including mostly of debtors of No. 2 Kalocho Union within Hajiganj police-station in the district of Tippera submitted petitions to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department, and the Commissioner, Chittagong Division, complaining against three individual members of the Kalocho Debt Settlement Board including the Chairman of the Board on the 19th August, 1939, and the 22nd August, 1939, respectively; and

(ii) that reminders have also been sent to the respective authorities on the 10th November, 1939, for taking necessary immediate steps?

(b) Has any inquiry been made into the allegations?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what other action, if any, he proposes to take on those petitions?

MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT and RURAL INDEBTEDNESS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick): (a) and (b) Yes

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. Syed JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us the result of the inquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: On inquiry the allegations were found to be not true.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us who made the inquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: It was conducted by the Circle Officer under the direction of the Collector.

Silting up of the Bidyadhari and certain other rivers in the 24-Parganas.

*5. **Mr. P. BANERJI:** (a) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department been drawn to the silting up of the Tolly's Nala, the Bidyadhari river and

the Peali river in the district of the 24-Parganas which has caused total failure of crops in the area bounded on the north by the Tolly's Nala, east by the Bidyadhari river, south by the Peâli river and west by the Eastern Bengal Railway due to stagnation of storm water?

(*b*) If so, will he be pleased to state what steps have been taken for the re-excavation of the said rivers?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) I am aware of the condition of Tolly's Nala and the Bidyadhari and Peali rivers. I am informed that there has been partial failure of crops in the area mentioned and that it is partly due to the unusually heavy rains during the last monsoon and partly to the silting up of the rivers.

(*b*) Attempts were made in the past to improve the river Bidyadhari by dredging without success. A scheme was also prepared for the revival of the river but on examination this was found impracticable. I have received an estimate for the improvement of Tolly's Nala and am now considering the question of financing the project. A scheme for the improvement of the Peali river is now under preparation.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the amount of the estimate involved in the improvement of the Tolly's Nala, etc.?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I think it is well over a lakh of rupees.

Silting up of the Bidyadhari and certain other rivers in the 24-Parganas.

***6. Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department aware that the silting up of the Tolly's Nala, the Bidyadhari river and the Peali river in the district of the 24-Parganas has caused total failure of crops in the area bounded on the north by the Tolly's Nala, east by the Bidyadhari river, south by the Peali river and west by the Eastern Bengal Railway due to stagnation of storm water?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken for the re-excavation of the said rivers?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) and (*b*) The attention of the hon'ble member is invited to the reply which I have just given to Mr. P. Banerjee's identical question above.

Mr. ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Mr. Griffin, Chief Engineer of the Public Health Department, made out a scheme for the excavation of the Bidyadhari river?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I think I have mentioned that in my reply (*b*).

Mr. ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: It is said that the scheme was found to be impracticable. But it has been made practicable by Mr. Griffin, the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Yes, the scheme was prepared by Mr. Griffin, but it was found to be impracticable by the experts in the Irrigation Department.

Silting up of the Atharabanka in Khulna.

*7. **Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(*i*) that the Atharabanka river in the Khulna district is fast silting up;

(*ii*) that in consequence thereof the Khulna-Barisal Mail and Express steamers are unable to use this route during the greater part of the year; and

(*iii*) that in consequence they are obliged to take a more circuitous route *via* Tona which takes a much longer time?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the direct distance between Sachiadaha steamer station and the nearest point of the Madhumati river; and

(*ii*) what is the distance between these two points *via* the Atharabanka river and the Madhumati river?

(*c*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that the confluence of the Atharabanka river and the Madhumati river is gradually receding eastwards; and

(*ii*) that the said confluence is now an acute angle retarding the influx of the Madhumati water into the Atharabanka river?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government intend to take in this matter?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the silting up of the Atharabanka river will affect the irrigation, navigation, health and commerce of the country?

(*f*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, he proposes to take to join the Atharabanka and the Madhumati rivers by the shortest route?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) (*i*) The river showed signs of silting up, but recently some improvement has been noticed.

(*ii*) Yes, during the dry season.

(*iii*) and (*e*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) About 2¾ miles.

(*ii*) About 3¼ miles.

(*c*) (*i*) No. I understand that the Atharabanka now takes off from the other river at Chapail which is slightly to the west of north of the old taking off point at Asthail.

(*ii*) My information is that the angle of take-off is less acute than it was at Asthail.

(*d*) Does not arise.

(*f*) The narrow neck of land which formerly existed at Chapail between the two rivers has recently been intersected by a natural cut, and so no action appears to be called for at present.

Ministerial tour in the Tippera district.

***8. Mr. MAQBUL HOSAIN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of the Hon'ble Ministers who visited the different places of the Tippera district from April, 1937, up to October, 1939;

(*b*) the amount of allowances which have been drawn or are likely to be drawn by each of them; and

(*c*) the purpose of their visit?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): I regret that I am not prepared to undertake the labour involved in the collection of the information required to answer this question.

Mr. Syed JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: On a point of order, Sir. The question has been admitted by you. The Hon'ble Minister says that he is not prepared to give the answer. May I know from you, Sir,

whether we are not entitled to know the details and whether this kind of reply does not interfere with the ordinary rights and privileges of the members of this House? You will see, Sir, that the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur of Dacca has given detailed information. We are entitled to have this information, and it is up to you, Sir, to see when you have admitted this question, and when the question is absolutely in order, that the Hon'ble Minister gives a reply to this question.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: May I support the point of order by drawing attention to the question that the different places visited by the Hon'ble Ministers in the Tippera district could not be many?

Mr. SPEAKER: If it is a question of privilege, it may be brought before the Privileges Committee. So far as this answer is concerned, I cannot help it.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Then I will put a supplementary question. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to acquaint the House what is the labour that is involved in giving this information which he is afraid to undertake?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: In view of the last portion of the question, I don't propose to reply.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will Mr. Gupta please repeat his question?

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: My question was this: I wanted to know from the Hon'ble Minister what is the exact amount of labour which he is afraid to undertake in answering this question?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I don't know wherefrom my honourable friend has got the words "I am afraid"?

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: In the answer the Hon'ble Minister says, "I am not prepared to undertake the labour. . . . ." On that I am asking for further information.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Unless my friends on the other side alter this question so as to make it a little more decent, I am not prepared to answer the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid—I am also using the same words "I am afraid"—the expression has not been used in the sense in which the Hon'ble Minister has been thinking but in the general sense as is commonly understood in the English language. When Mr. Gupta used

that expression he never wanted to convey that the Hon'ble Minister was mortally or in any way afraid. It is no use taking it in the sense in which it has not been meant.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, in the sense in which you have been good enough to interpret the words, I have no objection to answering the question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You are bound to answer the question.

Mr. SASANKHA SEKHAR SANYAL: You are drawing your salary to answer the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Sanyal, you are really going out of your bounds.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I will not retaliate on this occasion. If the honourable members or any honourable member has got any grievance with regard to the visit of any Minister I would expect that that should be brought up at the earliest opportunity so that the information that I might be able to impart might be imparted without any great trouble. Now eleven or twelve Hon'ble Ministers might have visited the district from time to time and several places in that district from time to time within the period from April, 1937, to October, 1939, and in most of these cases, in all probability, they had not taken the direct route, say, from Calcutta or from headquarters to Tippera, but they might have gone to various other districts and from there proceeded to Tippera. It is impossible under these circumstances without involving considerable amount of labour and expenditure to get together all the various travelling allowance bills which were drawn by the Hon'ble Ministers from 1937 to 1939, classify them and separate them to arrive at those expenses allottable to Tippera. In my opinion it will involve a considerable amount of labour and, therefore, I am not prepared to undertake it.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: What about (*a*) and (*c*)?—the names of the Hon'ble Ministers who visited the different places of the Tippera district from April, 1937, to October, 1939, and the purpose of their visit? Is there any difficulty in giving this information?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: We shall have to collect all the travelling allowance bills of all the Hon'ble Ministers—that at present is the only information at our disposal: otherwise, it is not possible for us to trace the movements of all the Hon'ble Ministers over a period of nearly 3 years, from 1937 to 1939—in order to find out who

were the Hon'ble Ministers who went to Tippera and on which particular dates. I know that it is not impossible to find out, and I have not suggested at any time that it is impossible to find out. Only the labour involved is not, in my opinion, commensurate with the value of the information for which Government Departments are asked to undertake that labour.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly keep the financial embarrassment aside and let us have a direct answer regarding (*a*) and (*c*)?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, at such a distance of time, it is impossible to find out with regard to each Hon'ble Minister as to why he, for instance, visited Tippera in April or May or in June, 1937. The information that one will have to gather for this is not possible to be properly collected.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any record kept in the Local District Magistrate's office of the dates and of the tour programmes of Ministers who visit the district?

Mr. SPEAKER: This question is concerned with the purpose and not with the dates.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If the tour programme is there, it will contain the date of the visit. So my question is if any record is kept in the office of the District Magistrate of the dates and of the tour programmes of the visits of Hon'ble Ministers to the districts.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, may I point out one difficulty? There is one Minister who has been always on tour.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am not in a position to say whether the District Magistrate preserves the tour programmes and, if so, for how long he does so. Secondly, all Ministers do not issue their tour programmes before they go out. There have been certain cases in which tour programmes were not issued.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the information which has been sought has to be collected by the department concerned or by the Minister himself?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not know by whom the information has to be collected. But the question has been addressed to the Finance Department. So, I think, it will be collected by the Finance Department and the Finance Department will in all probability address all the departments concerned and probably the department of the Accountant-General.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which department of Government will give him the names of the Ministers who visited the district between the periods mentioned?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: All the departments concerned will have to be consulted.

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Did the Hon'ble Minister consult all the departments?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, you have said that when the Hon'ble Minister replies in this manner, you have no hand in it and it might be a question of privilege. Sir, I submit that it is entirely within your jurisdiction to say whether an answer has been properly made or not. It is not a matter of privilege at all. I submit that there have been instances both in the Indian Legislature as well as in the Parliament——

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, this matter may be brought as a substantive motion. I think you had better make out a case and then bring it before the House.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Here is a case. If you decide that it is a matter of privilege, then we will——

Mr. SPEAKER: But you have to give notice of it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is entirely within your rights and it is the House——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, I have not many rights which you think I have. I think, there have been several instances in which some members thought that I had a right and others thought that I had not. As I said, the best way I can suggest is that if you think that a proper answering of a question is a matter of privilege, then you had better frame a motion to that effect and then I will certainly refer it to the Committee of Privileges.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I do not say that it is a matter of privilege. But you say that it is a matter in which you cannot give your ruling and it is a matter of privileges of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: If I remember aright, Mr Jalaluddin Hashemy said that it is a matter of privilege.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, may I submit that hundreds of questions are asked of Ministers and we have never wantonly tried to avoid a single question which could be answered.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You do not answer the question because it is uncomfortable——

(Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal also rose to speak.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Dr. Sanyal and Mr. Sanyal, you are making it impossible for me to carry on the proceedings.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir,——

(Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose rose to speak.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Bose, let Mr. Suhrawardy finish.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: There is no question which we consider uncomfortable because we can always answer questions to meet the readiest wits of the Opposite Party.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I submit, Sir,——

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, you should not interrupt as your Leader is going to speak now.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Sir, may I submit that it is within your power to give your decision whether the answer which we find on the paper is a proper answer to the question? Whether after that the matter will go before the Committee of Privileges is for the House to decide.

Mr. SPEAKER: If you want to know whether I have got that power, I hope I will get the assistance of all the whips of the parties and the Leaders to equip me with materials which can be the basis for deciding the question.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: May I put one supplementary question?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I have closed it.

Transfer and posting of second officer, Narayanganj.

*9. **Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Appointment) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the Subdivisional Officer of Narayanganj, the third officer and also the fourth officer were allowed leave at a time after the *Puja* holidays;

(*ii*) that the second officer alone had to do all works of all the courts up to the 15th day of November;

(*iii*) that even now no permanent fourth court is stationed at Narayanganj;

(*iv*) that there are about 100 pending cases in the fourth court; and

(*v*) that litigants are having *de novo* trials in many cases twice?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the second officer under order of transfer left the station; and

(*ii*) whether any officer has been posted in his place?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) No. The Subdivisional Officer was allowed to go on leave from the 30th October, 1939, to 17th November, 1939, and the third officer from the 30th October, 1939, to 14th November, 1939. The fourth officer was compelled to leave the station without notice during the *Puja* holidays for an operation.

(*ii*) No.

(*iii*) There is at present no fourth officer.

(*iv*) and (*v*) I have no information of the number of pending cases or of the extent to which litigants have insisted on *de novo* trial. I am informed that honorary magistrates are putting in extra sittings and that congestion of work, if any, will soon be removed.

(*b*) (*i*) 23rd November, 1939.

(*ii*) Yes, after the return of the Subdivisional Officer.

Recruitment of District Inspectors of Schools.

*10. **Mr. MONMOHAN DAS:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the District Inspectors of Schools are now being recruited from the outsiders (Teaching Branch) in disregard of the claims of the senior and experienced and qualified Subdivisional Inspectors of Schools?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) the number of vacancies which occurred during the last 3 years;

(ii) the number filled up by the—

(1) Junior Teachers of Colleges, and

(2) Head Masters of High Schools; and

(iii) how many of them are from the—

(1) Hindus, and

(2) Muhammadans?

(c) If the number of recruitments from the Hindus is smaller, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of filling up the future vacancies by the experienced and old District Inspectors of Schools and by new recruits from the Hindu Officers?

(d) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) the present number of District Inspectors of Schools in Bengal; and

(ii) how many of them are—

(1) Muhammadans,

(2) Caste Hindus, and

(3) Scheduled Castes?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (a) It is not a fact but officers of the Teaching Branch (Head Masters, Assistant Head Masters, Professors and Lecturers) specially recommended by controlling officers are considered for District Inspectorships along with Subdivisional and Sub-Inspectors of Schools.

(b)(i) Twelve.

(ii) Two

(1) Two Head Masters.

(2) One Assistant Head Master.

(*iii*) (1) One.

(2) Four.

(*c*) This is not necessary in view of the Government communique on communal ratios in the public services.

(*d*)(*i*) Twenty-seven.

(*ii*) (1) Seventeen.

(2) Ten.

(3) Nil.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that cases of some experienced and senior Hindu Subdivisional Inspectors of Schools have been ignored, whereas recruitment has been made from the Teaching Branch who belong to the Muslim community?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have no information, but I will look into the matter.

Curtailment of privileges enjoyed by Division II prisoners by Inspector-General of Prisons.

***11. Mr. B. MUKHERJEE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department aware—

(*i*) that many privileges allowed to the prisoners in Division II were taken away by the Inspector-General of Prisons, Bengal, before the Government of India Act, 1935, came into force in the provinces;

(*ii*) that one of the said privileges was the supply of safety razors which the prisoners in Division II could use at their own expense; and

(*iii*) that in other provinces the prisoners in Division II are allowed to use their own razor?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iii*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of allowing the prisoners in Division II the use of their own razor?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) No such privilege has ever been allowed in accordance with the Bengal Jail Code.

(*iii*) I have no information.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether such a privilege was ever granted—the privilege of using their own razors—to Division II prisoners?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No, what happened was that prisoners were allowed in the Andamans to buy their own safety razors under rules not current in Bengal in the framing of which the Bengal Government had had no concern. On repatriation to Bengal the terrorist Andaman prisoners in the Alipore Jail were for a short period permitted to use their own safety razors until satisfactory arrangements could be made for barber services for them.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the objections to allowing safety razors for the prisoners?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Well, I do not think it is advisable to allow prisoners to have anything in the nature of a sharp weapon in a jail.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there has been any incident which he is afraid would take place?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: There may not have been any incident in which a safety razor has been used, but incidents have taken place where safety razors might have been used.

Local and District Board nominations made during 1937-1939.

*12. **Babu SHYAMA PROSAD BARMAN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number and names of Local and District Boards, in the Province, to which nominations have been made during the years 1937-39;

(*b*) the names and qualifications of persons, who have been nominated to each such Board;

(*c*) the number of members of each Local and District Board;

(*d*) proportion of representation of different communities in each such Local and District Board;

(*i*) prior to nomination, and

(*ii*) consequent upon nomination;

(*e*) the names of communities, which have received weightage in each such Local and District Board as a result of nomination; and

(*f*) whether such weightage was given in each case on the population basis of each community?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) to (*e*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*f*) No.

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (a) to (e) of starred question No. 12.

(*a*) DISTRICT BOARDS.—12, viz., (1) Bankura, (2) 24-Parganas, (3) Nadia, (4) Murshidabad, (5) Mymensingh, (6) Dinajpur, (7) Jalpaiguri, (8) Pabna, (9) Bogra, (10) Bakarganj, (11) Jessore and (12) Darjeeling.

LOCAL BOARDS. 16, viz., (1) 24-Parganas (Sadar), (2) Diamond Harbour, (3) Basirhat, (4) Barrackpore, (5) Barasat, (6) Vishnupur (Bankura), (7) Boalia, (8) Nator, (9) Naogaon, (10) Dinajpur (Sadar), (11) Thakurgaon, (12) Balurghat, (13) Jalpaiguri (Sadar), (14) Pabna (Sadar), (15) Serajganj and (16) Bogra.

(*b*) (1) DISTRICT BOARDS.—

Bankura District Board (4th March, 1939).

The Subdivisional Officer, Sadar.

The Subdivisional Officer, Vishnupur.

Babu Dhirendra Kumar Mukharjee, Zemindar.

Babu Jatish Chandra Mandal, M.A., Professor, C. M. S. College, Calcutta.

Dr. Syed Muhammad Siddique, M.L.A., B.SC., M.B.

Babu Shyama Charan Hansda, Teacher, Primary School.

Babu Nirmal Prosad Banerjee, Zemindar.

Babu Dhanesh Bijoy Sahana, B.L., Pleader.

24-Parganas District Board (19th December, 1938).

Subdivisional Officer, Basirhat.

Subdivisional Officer, Diamond Harbour.

Maulvi Abdul Latif Ghazi.

Babu Rash Behari Mondol.

Babu Sasadhar Hazra.
Babu Bhaba Sindhu Lasker.
Maulvi Khair-ul-Anam Khan, Editor, *Azad*.
Babu Debendra Nath Das.
Khan Bahadur A. F. Abdur Rahman, M.L.A., Landholder.
Rai Sahib Harendra Kristo Deb Sarkar, Honorary Magistrate, Landholder.

Nadia District Board (25th March, 1937).

The Subdivisional Officer, Kushtia (*ex-officio*).
The Subdivisional Officer, Meherpur (*ex-officio*).
The Subdivisional Officer, Chuadanga (*ex-officio*).
The Subdivisional Officer, Ranaghat (*ex-officio*).
Maulvi Fazlur Rahman.
Rai Nagendra Nath Mukherji Bahadur.
Maulvi Shamsuzzoha.
Maulvi Ulfat Hossain Joarder.
Mr. C. Blomfield.
Babu Lakshmi Narayan Biswas.

Murshidabad District Board (16th March, 1937).

The Subdivisional Officer, Kandi.
The Subdivisional Officer, Jangipur.
Kumar Rajendra Narayan Sinha, B.A.
Maulvi Golam Mahboob.
Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed Kazem Ali Mirza.
Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ekramul Huq, B.L.
Mr. A. Somerville.
Mr. Dhirendra Narayan Roy.
Haji Moniruddin Ahmad.

Mymensingh District Board (14th May, 1937).

Civil-Surgeon, Mymensingh.
Subdivisional Officer, Netrakona.
Subdivisional Officer, Kishoreganj.
Subdivisional Officer, Jamalpur.

Subdivisional Officer, Tangail.

Khan Bahadur Sayed Muazamuddin Hossain, M.L.C.

Maulvi Mirza Abdul Hafiz, M.L.A.

Maulvi Abul Husain Ahmad, M.L.A.

Maulvi Fazlar Rahaman, M.L.A.

Babu Amrita Lal Mandal, B.L., M.L.A.

Babu Ambica Charan Das, B.L., Pleader.

Dinajpur District Board (3rd July, 1939).

Khan Bahadur Mahtabuddin Ahmed, M.L.A., Government Pensioner.

Maulvi Mofizuddin Chowdhury, M.L.A., Zemindar.

Maulvi Hafizuddin Chowdhury, M.L.A., Jotedar.

Maulvi Kader Bux, M.L.C., Additional Public Prosecutor and Jotedar.

Rai Sahib Jagadiswar Saha (of Balurghat), Merchant and Jotedar.

Babu Atul Chandra Roy, Pleader.

Babu Harendranath Roy, Member, Union Board.

Subdivisional Officer, Balurghat.

Subdivisional Officer, Thakurgaon.

Jalpaiguri District Board (10th December, 1937).

Mr. H N. O'Connor, representative of Dooar's Planters' Association.

Mr. Geo. Macintosh, representative of Dooar's Planters' Association.

Mr. G T. Irwin, representative of Dooar's Planters' Association.

Rai Joy Govinda Guha Bahadur, representative of the Indian Tea Planters' Association.

Subdivisional Officer, Sadar.

Subdivisional Officer, Alipur Duars.

Babu Madhusudan Roy.

Manager, Bengal-Duars Railways.

Babu Nalini Ranjan Ghosh, representative of the Baikunthapur Estate.

Khan Bahadur A. M. L. Rahman.

Rai Bipulendra Nath Banerjee Bahadur.

Khan Bahadur Golam Kibria.

Pabna District Board (6th September, 1938).

Subdivisional Officer, Serajganj.

Subdivisional Officer, Pabna.

Mr. Barat Ali, M.L.A.

Mr. Abdullah-al-Mahmood, M.A., B.L., M.L.A.

Rai Bahadur Pranesh Chandra Sen, B.L., Pleader.

Mr. Osman Ghani, Muktear, Serajganj.

Maulvi Noruddin Rukni, Teacher, Senior Madrassa, Serajganj.

Mr. Madhusudhan Sarkar, B.L., M.L.A.

Bogra District Board (20th December, 1937).

Maulvi Md. Ishaque, B.L., M.L.A., Lawyer.

Dr. Mofizuddin Ahmad, M.B., M.L.A., Medical practitioner.

Maulvi Rajibuddin Tarafdar, M.L.A.

Maulvi Nabiruddin Talukdar, Advocate.

The Subdivisional Officer, Bogra.

Babu Himangsu Kumar Ray, M.A., B.L., Lawyer.

Bakarganj District Board (24th April, 1937).

The Subdivisional Officer, Sadar (*ex-officio*).

The Subdivisional Officer, Pirojpur (*ex-officio*).

The Subdivisional Officer, Patuakhali (*ex-officio*).

The Subdivisional Officer, Bhola (*ex-officio*).

Mr. G. R. Hollingbery, Joint Agent, Steamer Company, Barisal.

Babu Devi Charan Roy Choudhury, Zemindar and Pleader.

Rai Bahadur Surendra Nath Datta, a retired member of the Assam Provincial Service.

Babu Jogendra Nath Mandal, M.L.A., Pleader.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hashem Ali Khan, M.L.A.

Maulvi Sadaruddin Ahmed, M.L.A., Pleader

Jessore District Board (30th November, 1927).

Subdivisional Officer, Bongaon.

Subdivisional Officer, Narail.

Subdivisional Officer, Jhenida.

Subdivisional Officer, Magura.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Gafur Biswas of Pashapole.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Awal, Muhammadan Marriage Registrar, Magura.

Babu Bhudhar Chandra Pande.

Babu Basanta Kumar Gupta, Pleader, Magura.

Maulvi Abdul Haque, President, Baoison Union Board.

Maulvi Toazuddin Ahmed, B.L., Pleader.

Darjeeling District Board (10th February, 1937).

Civil Surgeon, Darjeeling.

The Executive Engineer, Darjeeling Division

The Subdivisional Officer, Darjeeling.

The Subdivisional Officer, Siliguri.

The Subdivisional Officer, Kalimpong.

Rev. H. C. Duncan.

Mr. H. W. Cox.

Babu Rama Shankar Prosad.

Mr. Dunbar Singh Gurung.

M. Md. Ismail Huq Choudhury.

Deputy Commissioner, Darjeeling (*ex-officio*), Chairman

(*b*) (2) LOCAL BOARDS.—

24-Parganas Sadar Local Board (22nd March, 1937).

Babu Narendra Chandra Chakravarty.

The Rev. J. N. Sircar, B.A.

Babu Ratneswar Chatarji, B.L., President, Langalbaria Union Board.

Babu Sashadhar Hazra, Vice-President, Mondi Union Board, Landholder.

Babu Manindra Nath Dutt, M.A., B.L.

Munshi Hafizuddin Sardar, Landholder.

Basirhat Local Board.

Munshi Asiruddin Sardar, Landholder.

Maulvi Mohammed Khairul Anam Khan, Editor, *Azad*.

Maulvi Majibar Rahman Sikari, Landholder.

Babu Deb Narayan Haldar.

Baraset Local Board.

Rai Sahib Surendra Nath Ghosh (since dead).

Maulvi Yakul Ali Khan, Medical practitioner.

Syed Nazra Moslem, Landholder, Honorary Magistrate.

Diamond Harbour Local Board

The Colonisation Officer, Diamond Harbour.

Maulvi Keramat Ali Naskar.

Babu Peari Mohan Haldar, President, Jadabpur Union.

Babu Dhirendra Kumar Burman.

Babu Durga Mohan Patitandi, takes active interest in public work.

Barrackpore Local Board.

Khan Bahadur Syed Mostequous Salcheen, M.B.E., Honorary Magistrate.

Babu Sarat Chandra Sur, Member, Bandipur Union Board.

Babu Satish Chandra Singh Roy.

Vishnupur Local Board, Bankura (18th December, 1937).

The Circle Officer, Vishnupur (*ex-officio*).

Babu Sarat Kumar Bose (village and post-office Indas), President, Indas Union Board.

Babu Kshetra Mohan Singh Thakur (village and post-office Kuchiakole), Zemindar.

Maulvi Didar Buksh Hajari (village Piarbera, post-office Palasdanga), Landholder.

Boalia Local Board (14th August, 1939).

Maulvi Saber Ali Mandal, Jotedar.

Maulvi Haji Abdul Khaleque, Jotedar.

Maulvi Mofizuddin Ahmed, Jotedar.

Maulvi Khondkar Abdur Rahman, Jotedar.

Maulvi Haji Jan Mohammad, Jotedar.

Maulvi Muhammad Akbar Ali (village Maugram, police-station Bagmara).

Nator Local Board.

The Circle Officer, Nator North Circle (*ex-officio*).

Maulvi Rezaunnabi, B.A., B.L.

Maulvi Kazi Abdul Masood, Muktear.

Maulvi Nawazeshuddin Chowdhury, Zemindar.

Babu Radha Gobinda Mazumdar, Merchant.

Naogaon Local Board.

Maulvi Maniruddin Akhand, B.L., M.L.A., Pleader.

Maulvi Mirajuddin Ahmad, B.L., Pleader.

Maulvi Maizuddin Ahmad, B.A., Teacher.

Maulvi Ashraful Islam, B.L., Pleader.

Maulvi Muhammad Haidar Ali, Jotedar.

Dinajpur Sadar Local Board (20th December, 1937).

Maulvi Muhammad Jamil, Jotedar.

Maulvi Aftabuddin Choudhury, Jotedar.

Maulvi Gholam Hamidur Rahman, Pleader.

Babu Nalini Mohan Sinha, Rev. Secretary, Dinajpur Raj

Babu Atul Chandra Roy, pleader.

Babu Harendra Nath Roy, Member, Union Board.

Thakurgaon Local Board.

Maulvi Hasan Ali, Pleader.

Maulvi Saifuddin Ahmed, Muktear.

Babu Taranath Roy, Medical practitioner.

Babu Jagamohan Sinha, Jotedar.

Babu Munsa Ram Barman, Muktear.

Balurghat Local Board.

Maulvi Shah Abdur Rauf, Pleader.

Maulvi Mohiuddin Ahmed, Jotedar.

Babu Haladar Mandal, Jotedar.

Babu Matilal Sarkar, Jotedar.

Sadar Local Board, Jalpaiguri (8th March, 1937).

Circle Officer, Sadar Circle, Jalpaiguri (*ex-officio*).

Babu Priyanath Goswami, ex-President of Patgram Union Board, Jotedar.

Babu Nilmani Das, President of Tetulia Union Board, Merchant and Jotedar.

Maulvi Jaharatullah Ahmed.

Mir Hossain Aly, Jotedar under Government estate.

Pabna Sadar Local Board (14th June, 1937).

Circle Officer, Bera (*ex-officio*).

Maulvi Sirajuddin Ahmad, President of the Union Board, Union Bench and Court at Sadullapur.

Maulvi Noazesh Ali Mian, President of the Union Board, Union Bench and Court at Manikhat.

Maulvi Md. Mayezuddin Sarkar (since dead).

Babu Umesh Chandra Haldar, M.A., B.T., a retired member of the Bengal Educational Service.

Babu Panchanon Saha, President, Dogachi Union Board.

Sirajganj Local Board.

Circle Officer, Shahazadpur (*ex-officio*).

Khan Sahib Maulvi Mizanur Rahman, Muhammadan Marriage Registrar, retired Honorary Magistrate.

Khan Sahib Syed Akbar Ali, B.L., Pleader.

Maulvi Khaliluddin Talukdar.

Maulvi Ibrahim Husain, President of the Nalka Union Board.

Babu Radha Raman Biswas, B.A.

East Bogra Local Board (25th March, 1937).

Maulvi Kabezuddin Ahmed, B.L., Lawyer.

Maulvi Jahiruddin Tarafdar, Jotedar.

Babu Tarak Nath Roy Chowdhuri, Zemindar.

The Circle Officer, Eastern Circle.

West Bogra Local Board.

The Circle Officer, Central Circle.

Mr. Habibur Rahman, B.L., Zemindar and Pleader.

Khan Sahib Maulvi Mohammad Hamid Ali, B.L., Lawyer.

Mr. Serajul Huq, Zemindar and Honorary Magistrate.

Babu Woopendra Nath Roy, B.L., Pleader.

(c) Name of District Board.	Number of members—		
	Elected.	Nominated.	Total.
Bankura	16	8	24
24-Parganas	20	10	30
Nadia	20	10	30
Murshidabad	18	9	27
Darjeeling	10	10	20
Mymensingh	22	11	33
Dinajpur	18	9	27
Jalpaiguri	12	12	24
Bogra	12	6	18
Pabna	16	8	24
Bakarganj	20	10	30
Jessore	20	10	30

Name of Local Board.	Number of members— Elected.	Nominated.	Total.
Vishnupur (Bankura)	8	4	12
24-Parganas, Sadar	14	6	20
Basirhat	8	4	12
Diamond Harbour	11	5	16
Barasat	7	3	10
Barrackpore	7	3	10
Boalia (Rajshahi)	12	6	18
Nator	10	5	15
Naogaon	10	5	15
Dinajpur, Sadar	12	6	18
Thakurgaon	10	5	15
Balurghat	8	4	12
Jalpaiguri, Sadar	10	5	15
Pabna, Sadar	12	6	18
Sirajganj	12	6	18
East Bogra	8	4	12
West Bogra	10	5	15

(*d*) and (*e*).

Names of local bodies.	Proportion of representative of different communities. Prior to nominations (i.e. among elected seats). No. of elected seats.	Percentage of Hindus.	Percentage of Muslims.	Consequent upon nomination (i.e. among total seats). Total seats.	Percentage of Hindus.	Percentage of Muslims.	Community which has received weightage as a result of nomination.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
District Boards.							
Bankura ..	16	81	12·5	24	75	12	Nil.
24-Parganas ..	20	55	45	30	53	40	Hindus.
Nadia ..	20	60	40	30	46·6	36·6	Muslims.
Murshidabad ..	18	66	33	27	53	37	Do.
Mymensingh ..	22	27	73	33	24	60·8	Nil.
Dinajpur ..	18	28	72	27	29·6	63	Hindus.

Names of local bodies.	Proportion of representative of different communities.						Community which has received weightage as a result of nomination.
	Prior to nominations (i.e., among elected seats).			Consequent upon nomination (i.e., among total seats).			
	No. of elected seats.	Percentage of Hindus.	Percentage of Muslims.	Total seats.	Percentage of Hindus.	Percentage of Muslims.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
District Boards.							
Jalpaiguri ..	12	56	12·5	24	54	16·6	Muslims.
Bogra ..	12	33	66·6	18	27·7	66·6	Do.
Pabna ..	16	31	68·7	24	29	62	Nil.
Bakarganj ..	20	25	75	30	27	57	Hindus.
Jessore ..	20	40	60	30	33	53	Nil.
Darjeeling ..	10	70	Nil	20	45	5	Muslims.
Local Boards.							
Vishnupur	8	87·5	12·5	12	75	17	Muslims.
24-Parganas (Sadar)	14	57	43	20	60	35	Hindus.
Basirhat ..	8	87·5	12·5	12	66·6	33	Muslims.
Diamond Harbour	11	63·6	36·3	16	66·6	33	Hindus.
Baraset .	7	57	43	10	50	50	Muslims.
Barrackpore ..	7	57	43	10	60	40	Hindus.
Boalia (Rajshahi)	12	58·3	41·7	18	39	61	Muslims.
Nator ..	10	30	70	15	26·6	66·6	Nil.
Naogaon ..	10	40	60	15	26·6	73	Muslims.
Dinajpur (Sadar)	12	33	66·6	18	39	61	Hindus.
Thakurgaon ..	10	40	60	15	47	53	Do.
Balurghat ..	8	50	50	12	50	50	Nil.
Jalpaiguri (Sadar)	10	60	40	15	53	40	Muslims.
Pabna (Sadar) ..	12	33	66·6	18	33	61	Hindus.
Sirajganj ..	12	33	66·6	18	28	66·6	Muslims.
East Bogra ..	8	12·5	87·5	12	17	75	Hindus.
West Bogra ..	10	30	70	15	20	77	Muslims.

As the Scheduled Castes figures are not available in all cases either from the District Officers' reports or from the Secretariat records and as the Scheduled Caste Hindus are not ordinarily regarded as separate community, Scheduled Castes figures are included among Hindus.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer to (*e*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the basis on which weightage was given in each case?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has answered "No".

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: My question is what is the basis on which weightage was given. From the table it will be seen that in reply to questions (*d*) and (*e*) weightage has been given in column 8, but not on population basis of each community. My question is, then what is the basis on which weightage was given in each case?

Mr. SPEAKER: Nawab Bahadur, Mr. Kundu wants to know what was the principle in nominating candidates.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: In which district may I know, Sir?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In all the districts of Bengal.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, we have seen that a majority is not turned into a minority. That is the only thing we have considered. Weightage has not been given.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Appointment of a Non-Agricultural Tenancy Committee.

1. **Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether the Government have appointed a Non-Agricultural Tenancy Committee to enquire into the question of the rights of the non-agricultural tenants within municipal areas?

(*b*) If so, when was the Committee appointed and with whom?

(*c*) Has that Committee any sitting? If so, on which dates did it sit?

(*d*) Has that Committee done any work up to date? If so, what is the nature of the work done?

(*e*) Has that Committee submitted any report?

(*f*) If so, what is the gist of that report and what action have the Local Government taken thereon?

(*g*) If the answer to (*e*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any time-limit for that Committee to submit its report?

(*h*) If so, when is the Committee required to submit their report?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Committee consisting of the following personnel was appointed on the 2nd August, 1939:—

(1) Member, Board of Revenue, Bengal, President (*ex-officio*).

(2) Maulvi Abdul Latif Biswas, M.L.A.

(3) Mr. Md. Mohsin Ali, M.L.A.

(4) Haji Safiruddin Ahmed, M.L.A.

(5) Maulvi Mofizuddin Ahmed, M.L.A.

(6) Mr. Abdul Karim, M.L.A.

(7) Khan Sahib Abdul Hamid Chowdhury, M.L.C.

(8) Khan Bahadur Md. Ibrahim, M.L.C.

(9) Mr. Banku Behari Mondal, M.L.A.

(10) Babu Debendra Nath Das, M.L.A.

(11) Maharaja Sashi Kanta Acharjya Chowdhury of Muktagachha, M.L.A.

(12) Dr. Radha Binode Pal, M.A., D.L.

(13) Khan Sahib Hamududdin Ahmed, M.L.A.

(14) Dr. Mafizuddin Ahmed, M.L.A.

(15) Land Acquisition Officer, 24-Parganas (*ex-officio*), who will also act as Secretary to the Committee.

(*c*) Yes. The Committee had seven sittings. Till now, the date of sittings being—

18th August, 1938.
20th August, 1938.
9th March, 1939.
17th March, 1939.
24th March, 1939.
1st May, 1939.
26th August, 1939

(*d*) Apart from discussions on the dates mentioned, the Committee had a special record-of-rights of non-agricultural lands prepared under the supervision of the Director of Land Records, for places selected by the Committee, viz., Diamond Harbour, Hingulganj, Hilli, Bhairab and part of Comilla.

(*e*) and (*g*) No.

(*f*) and (*h*) Do not arise.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: With reference to answer (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether that Committee has discussed the question of giving sufficient protection to non-agricultural tenants from eviction?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, the proceedings of the Committee are confidential.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the intention of Government for bringing in a legislation for the purpose of giving sufficient protection to the non-agricultural tenants has been communicated to this Committee?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The Committee has been asked to enquire into the whole problem of the rights of non-agricultural tenants, and on the basis of the Committee's recommendations, Government will formulate their policy.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the majority of the members on the last sitting of the Committee came to a decision according to which a report was drawn up and circulated to the members?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I do not think the Committee came to any decision.

Mr. SPEAKER: How can the Hon'ble Minister say that? Has the Committee presented any report?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: I ask whether it is a fact that the majority of the members came to a decision?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: As I have just stated, the proceedings of the Committee are confidential, and the Committee has not yet made its recommendations.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether, in view of the answer just now given to my question, Government propose to bring in a legislation after getting a report from the Committee?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, it will depend on what recommendations we receive.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the Committee has not been given any time by which to submit their report?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It is not the usual practice to put a time-limit within which the Committee must submit its report. That will be giving it a handicap.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have communicated their intention to this Committee for bringing in a legislation in respect of giving protection to non-agricultural tenants, and for that purpose asking the Committee to submit their report very shortly?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, the Committee is certainly aware that Government are awaiting its report and that Government would frame their policy on receiving the recommendations of the Committee.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, my question was as Government propose bringing in a legislation after the Government got the recommendations of this Committee, and as there is no time-limit given to this Committee to submit their report, whether Government propose asking this Committee to submit their report very shortly?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: In view of the fact that the Government has already framed a Bill to consider the matter, was it not the duty of the Government to ask that Committee to submit the report so that on that basis legislation can be done?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid the question of duty does not arise here.

Distress of peasants in some parts of Basirhat subdivision, 24-Parganas.

2. **Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that the condition of the peasants in certain parts of the Basirhat subdivision, 24-Parganas, has been affected by the last floods;

(*ii*) that they approached the Subdivisional Officer, Basirhat, for relief; and

(*iii*) that more than 700 of them are wandering in Calcutta and living on the streets as beggars?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he proposes to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) Yes, to a certain extent.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) No.

(*b*) A sum of Rs. 50,000 was distributed as agricultural loans in the affected area. Gratuitous relief to the extent of Rs. 500 has also been granted in addition to amounts locally collected and distributed for relief.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble Minister himself personally enquired into the matter, and if so, will he kindly tell us the result of the enquiry?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: In which matter?

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Conditions of the peasants; because I find an inconsistency. In answer to question (*iii*) he says that the peasants did not make any representation, whereas in answer (*ii*) he says that they approached the Subdivisional Officer of Basirhat. So, I cannot reconcile one with the other.

Mr. SPEAKER: The difficulty is that you have assumed that not more than 700 peasants are wandering in Calcutta. There are certainly a larger number wandering here, but the question is whether they are from the particular district you mention.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: I thought that it was a much larger number, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that question does not arise.

Waiting room for workers and representatives in Workmen's Compensation case.

3. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken by Government to improve the waiting room for workers and their representatives in the Workmen's Compensation case, as assured by him in the last session?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(*c*) Has any enquiry been made regarding the allegations made? If not, why not?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of finding a place on the ground-floor for the Compensation Court for the convenience of injured men and women and children who have to attend this Court?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when it is likely to be given effect to?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) to (*e*) The matter is still under the consideration of Government, and a decision will be reached as soon as the necessary enquiries are finished.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what enquiries have been made and what has been the result of the enquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: All necessary enquiries have been made.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is prepared to spend any additional amount for giving greater accommodation to the——

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Inconveniences of the people of Sonua and certain other places in Chittagong in attending munsifi courts.

4. **Khan Bahadur MD. ANWARUL AZIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether he is aware that in the rainy months there is no means of communication for the people of—

(*i*) Sonua and Jaldi to attend the munsifi at Satkania; and

(*ii*) Ukhia and Teknaf to attend the munsifi at Cox's Bazar?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, do the Government contemplate the transfer of the munsifi headquarters of Satkania to Sonua and of Cox's Bazar to Teknaf?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) Yes: communication between the places mentioned is very difficult in the rainy months.

(*b*) No: the proposal if given effect to will merely transfer the difficulties of coming to court from the people of Banskhali thana in which Sonua and Jaldi are situated to the people of Satkania thana. Similarly transfer of the Cox's Bazar Munsifi to Teknaf, which is at the extreme southern end of Chittagong district and the Province of Bengal, which is not served by steamer in the rainy months, will merely saddle the inhabitants of five thanas with the inconvenience at present experienced by those of two.

Right of police to form associations.

5. **Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to state whether there exist any executive orders barring the police to form associations on the lines of the trade unions for ameliorating the condition of their service and for redress of their grievances?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: There are specific rules regarding recognition by Government of associations of its employees including the police and the recognition is accorded to a distinct class of its employees for the purpose of enabling them to communicate their needs of common interest to Government or to Government officers.

It is against the principle of Government to allow its employees to ventilate their grievances for redress through the Press and the Legislature or to go on strike, while it is not the intention of Government that their legitimate activities affecting the interests of the members should be penalised.

Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA CANGULY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what does he mean by "a distinct class of its employees for the purpose of enabling them———" mentioned in paragraph 1 of the answer? Who are they?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I mean that constables and head constables will form one distinct class, Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors will form one distinct class, perhaps the Deputy Superintendents of Police may go with them, then you have got the Imperial Police as a distinct class.

Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA CANGULY: Which of these distinct classes has got the privilege?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Every one can have a union amongst themselves with the permission of Government as a distinct class.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: In paragraph 2 of the Hon'ble Minister's answer, he has said it is against the principle of Government to allow its employees to ventilate their grievances for redress through the Press and the Legislature. Do I understand the Hon'ble Minister to say that the Press and the Legislature have got the right to ventilate the grievances of the Government servants and to place them before the Legislature?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That is quite true. As far as the Police are concerned, they are not supposed to go to the Press for ventilating their grievances.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the point is that while grievances of any service as a whole can be discussed, it is not desirable that every individual should approach members to ventilate individual or service grievances.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Yes, that is what I mean.

Working hours of jail warders, jamadars and European warders.

6. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the jail warders, jamadars and European warders do not get any day off in the week;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that the warders have to work daily 10 to 12 hours; morning parade two hours, day duty 12 to 7 p.m. and night duty two or three hours; or morning duty 5 a.m. to 12 noon, extra duty two hours and night duty two or three hours;

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that the jail warders are not allowed to leave their quarters even when they are not on duty;

(*iv*) whether it is a fact that warder doing night duty at 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. is again to be on duty at 5 p.m.;

(*v*) whether it is a fact that there are several warders who have not been made permanent though working as temporary hands for more than five years in some cases;

(*vi*) whether it is a fact that for want of leave reserves, warders—both Indian and European—cannot get leave when necessary;

(*vii*) whether the European warders have to perform night duty 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. continually for 7 days at a stretch;

(*viii*) whether it is a fact that there is practically no scope for promotion for the warders and jail staff; and

(*ix*) whether it is a fact that no family quarters are given at all to warders and not to all jamadars?

(*b*) If so, what steps, if any, are in the contemplation of Government to ameliorate the condition of their service?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) Yes, except that one European warder in the Alipore Jail is allowed one day off a week in rotation.

(*ii*), (*iii*), (*vi*), (*viii*) and (*ix*) No.

(*iv*) Warders on duty from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. are generally given morning duty the following morning.

(*v*) Yes.

(*vii*) Yes, in rotation.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that European warders do not get even one calendar day off, that is, one full night and one full day. If they work up to 12 o'clock one day, then on the next day at 4 o'clock they are put to duty again.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That is quite true except that one European warder of the Alipore Jail is allowed one day off in rotation.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: This European warder gets only a part of the day but not one calendar day.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That is quite true.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: With reference to answer (*c*), viz., whether it is a fact that there are several warders who have not been made permanent though working as temporary hands for more than five years in some cases, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of framing some rules so that the warders working there may be made permanent after two or three years?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, as a matter of fact, this is not the usual practice. Some people were taken on a temporary basis during an emergency. They did not conform to the recruitment rules as regards height or age, and it is only these warders—their number is very few—who have not been made permanent. I intend to look into this matter to see whether it is possible in some cases at least to make them permanent.

Accidents on the Chittagong-Dohazari and Chittagong-Nazirhat Ghat sections of Assam-Bengal Railway.

7. Dr. SANAULLAH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, year by year, for the last five years how many human lives and domestic animals have been lost as a result of accidents on the Chittagong-Dohazari and the Chittagong-Nazirhat Ghat sections of the Assam-Bengal Railway and in the Dhurangkhal near Bibirhat, police-station Fatickchari, district Chittagong?

(*b*) What precautionary and preventive steps do the Government propose to take to safeguard the public against such accidents?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) Inquiry is being made if any precautionary steps are possible.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 7.

Year.	Number of men and animals killed in the—			
	(1) Chittagong-Dohazari and Chittagong-Nazirhat Ghat Sections of the Assam-Bengal Railway.		(2) Dhurangkhal in the district of Chittagong.	
	Men.	Animals.	Men.	Animals.
1935 ..	6	2	..	2
1936 ..	7	7	1	3
1937 ..	1	8	..	1
1938 ..	4	9	..	2
1939 (up to November) ..	5	7	2	2

Imposition of education cess under Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act, 1930.

8. **Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the total amount of education cess imposed under sections 29 and 30 of the Bengal Primary Education Act, 1930, throughout the province;

(*ii*) the shares to be borne by—

(1) proprietors,

(2) tenure-holders, and

(3) the *raiyats* (to be shown separately); and

(*iii*) the total amount of Bengal Primary Education Funds in each district (to be shown separately)?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how the education cess realised from the tenure-holders and *raiyats* will be utilised?

(*c*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister been drawn to the report of the Primary Education Committee from which it will be seen that only ninety-six lakhs of rupees out of the total education cess will be added to the Primary Education Fund?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state where the rest of the education cess will go?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether under the proposed scheme the number of schools will be reduced?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) The figures of demand are not available at present.

(*ii*) A reference is invited to section 30 of the Act.

			Rs.
(*iii*) Dacca	...	...	7,42,399
Mymensingh	...	...	13,59,347
Faridpur	...	...	1,24,891
Rangpur	..	...	2,17,908
Chittagong	...	..	1,80,305
Murshidabad	...	...	90,182
Jalpaiguri	...	...	1,63,609
Pabna	..	...	95,917
Nadia	...	...	1,10,698
Birbhum	...	..	96,089
Noakhali	...	..	4,84,888
Tippera	...	..	9,74,329
Birbhum	...	...	95,302
Dinajpur	...	...	1,19,579

As no budget has yet been submitted by the District School Board, Howrah, it has not been possible to supply the figures for the district.

(*b*) The amounts will be handed over to the various District School Boards for utilisation for the purposes specified in the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The Committee estimated that the remainder would be unrealised.

(*e*) The number of schools will be determined after a careful survey of local needs and the existing number may be reduced or increased in any district as found necessary. It is hoped that every child will have a school within a mile of its residence.

Sub-Registrar of Cox's Bazar, Chittagong.

9. Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education (Registration) Department be pleased to state how long the present Sub-Registrar of Cox's Bazar in the district of Chittagong, is there?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Since the 26th September, 1938.

Breaches in the embankment of the river Coomti.

10. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department aware—

(*i*) that there has been a destruction of *aus* crops in an area covering over almost the whole of police-station Burichang and the two unions of Amratali and Panchtupi within police-station Kotwali in the district of Tippera due to flood caused by the breaches in the embankment of the river Goomti in the month of *Sravan*, 1346 B.S.; and

(*ii*) that the distress was aggravated by the cyclone that passed over the area immediately following the breaches?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the estimate of loss caused on account of the destruction—

(*i*) of crops; and

(*ii*) of dwelling huts?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that some portion of the northern embankment is neither maintained by the Government nor by the Tripura State;

(*ii*) that some portion of the embankment is within the Tripura State and not within the British Tippera; and

(*iii*) that those breaches in that portion of the embankment which is within the Tripura State or which is not maintained by the Government though within the British Tippera cause destruction of crops of the Burichang thanas as well as of the two unions of Amratali and Panchtupi within Kotwali police-station?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of breaches which occurred since the year 1929—

(*i*) in the embankments maintained by the Government;

(*ii*) in the portion of the embankment within the British Tippera but not maintained by the Government; and

(*iii*) in the portion of the embankment which is within the Tripura State?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the estimate of loss of crops caused by the breaches in the embankment, year by year, since the year 1929?

(*f*) What steps, if any, have the Government taken to avoid the breaches so long?

(*g*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of taking any steps to avoid the breaches?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) As regards crops, the attention of the hon'ble member is invited to the reply which I gave on the 11th December, 1939, to parts (*c*) and (*d*) of Mr. Maqbul Hosain's starred question No. 63. I have no information about the number of huts damaged.

(*c*) I have no information about the existence or the state of repair of any embankment within Tripura State, or about the extent to which damage is caused in British India in consequence of the rivers overflowing its banks in State territory, but I will have inquiries made on these points. There is a portion of the northern embankment in Tippera district which is not maintained by Government or by the zemindar; damage in the areas mentioned by the hon'ble member is caused by floods coming through breaches in this portion.

(*d*) The statement laid on the table gives such of the information desired by the hon'ble member as I have available.

(*e*) As I have recently discussed with members of the Legislature representing the area affected by flooding the question whether whole of the embankment within British India should be maintained, I trust that the hon'ble member will not press for further information desired by him in these parts of his question and in the second section of part (*b*).

(*f*) and (*g*) Attention is invited to the reply which I gave on the 19th December, 1939, to Mr. Maqbul Hosain's starred question No. 95.

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (d) and (e) of unstarred question No. 10, showing the number of breaches which occurred in the portion of the Goomti embankment maintained by Government and the extent of damage done since 1929.

Date.	Place where breach occurred.	Mileage.	Bank.	Extent of damage caused by the breach.
1	2	3	4	5
9th June, 1929 ..	Kanthalia ..	13th ..	Left	Damage to *aus* crops was considerable but the soil benefited and produced good *aman* crops later on.
11th June, 1929	Subarnapur ..	3rd ..	Right	
18th August, 1933	Ratnabati ..	7th ..	Right ..	The breach did not cause much damage to crops and was closed after the flood subsided.
23rd June, 1934	Ditto ..	7th ..	Do. ..	No damage as the breach was closed promptly.
14th August, 1935	Dumuria ..	6th ..	Do. ..	The current through the breach was immediately controlled by constructing a temporary ring *bund* The damage was slight.
10th August, 1936	Aranura ..	9th ..	Left ..	No damage.
20th June, 1937	Ramchandrapur	19th ..	Do. ..	No damage as the breach was immediately closed.
24th and 28th September, 1938	Banasua ..	..	..	Not known.
2nd August, 1939	Baladkuria ..	..	Left ..	Slight damage.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us what steps have been taken by Government to avoid breaches since the discussion by members of the Legislature?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: As my honourable friend knows very well, it is not possible to avoid breaches of embankment until we can take up our main schemes for controlling the flood water. As will appear from my reply, we are arranging to have a survey undertaken of that area.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, I want to know what steps have Government taken in the matter since that conference, in December, 1939. Is it a fact that the Conference thought it desirable that the embankments should be done away with or abolished?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: The department is considering whether it is possible and feasible to do away with the embankments altogether without causing serious damage to the property of the local people. In order to come to a decision in this respect the survey has to be undertaken first. But before the survey is completed, I am afraid, it is not possible to say whether the removal of embankments is advisable or not.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, my question (*e*) as to the estimate of loss of crops caused by breaches has not been answered.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: That is given in the last portion of my reply (*e*). I thought we had sufficiently discussed the matter in the Conference, and as it was not quite easy to get the report asked for, I thought the honourable member would not press for it.

Irrigation and drainage schemes for Central and Western Bengal.

11. Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department be pleased to state the particulars relating to the irrigation and drainage schemes for Central and Western Bengal which are under examination of Government giving names of the schemes, dates of first submission, estimated amounts for each, and present position?

(*b*) Have the Government under consideration any proposal for decentralising the execution of some of the irrigation and drainage schemes with a view to expedite their completion?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of consulting some representatives of the District Boards and of the Legislature before finally making up their mind on the matter?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) Attention is invited to the reply which I gave on the 6th December, 1939, to Maulvi Maniruddin Akhand's unstarred question No. 11.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) District Boards will be consulted, and if Government decide that funds should be provided to give effect to the scheme of decentralisation, the Legislature will be asked to make the necessary grant.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*a*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the question referred to therein of Maulvi Maniruddin Akand related to North Bengal districts whereas my question related to Central and West Bengal?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, when I referred to that question, I referred to the general principle underlying it and not to any particular part of it. I would like only to add that we are preparing a list of irrigation schemes of the various districts of the province, collected through the Divisional Commissioner which I hope to circulate among the honourable members, very likely within this session.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state then what particular part or parts of Maulvi Manir-uddin Akand's question have been drawn attention to in reply to which particular part or parts of my question No. 11?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: As I said, Sir, it is not in reference to any part but on general lines.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My question definitely is: I want to have a list of the schemes which are under examination, giving names of the schemes, dates of first submission, estimated amounts for each, and present position in Central and Western Bengal. The other reply with regard to that was that Government is examining certain schemes.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has said that he proposes to circulate the list amongst honourable members.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Let us know what particular scheme or schemes are referred to in reply to my question.

Mr. SPEAKER: You yourself know what the scheme is. The Hon'ble Minister wants to circulate the list of schemes amongst honourable members.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With regard to answer (*c*) wherein the Hon'ble Minister says that if Government decide that funds should be provided, the Legislature will be asked to make the necessary grant, may I know if he has got any further information to add to this because this appears to be something quite out of date now?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I would only appeal to my honourable friend to have some patience for a little while until the Budget Estimates are circulated to-day.

Grievances of Scheduled Castes regarding appointments under Jute Restriction Scheme.

12. Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, grade by grade, the number of Jute Restriction Officers appointed in the district of Rangpur, and from (*i*) Caste Hindus, (*ii*) Muslims, and (*iii*) Scheduled Castes?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the ratio question was considered for the appointment of the Scheduled Castes?

(*c*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that some non-Scheduled Castes have been appointed in preference to the Scheduled Castes; and

(*ii*) that applications from the Scheduled Castes were not considered?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of observing the ratio question in case of all future appointments under Government?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) The member is referred to the answer given to starred question No. 83 by Maulvi Md. Mozammel Huq on the 19th December, 1939.

(*b*) and (*d*) Yes

(*c*) No.

Upper Division clerks in Divisional Commissioner's Office, Rajshahi.

13. Maulvi AZHAR ALI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many clerks are there in the Upper Division in the office of the Commissioner, Rajshahi Division (at Jalpaiguri);

(*ii*) how many of them are from—

(1) Muhammadans, and

(2) Scheduled Castes; and

(*iii*) how many vacancies in the Upper Division of the said Commissioner's office have been filled up since 1937 up to date, both—

(1) by direct recruitment, and

(2) by promotion?

(*b*) How many of these posts have been given to—

(*i*) Muhammadans, and

(*ii*) Scheduled Castes?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) Nine (including two selection grade posts and the post of confidential clerk).

(*ii*) Muhammadan—One.

Scheduled Castes—One.

(*iii*) 1937—Nil.

1938—Upper Division—Three—

(1) Direct recruitment—One.

(2) By promotion—Two.

1939—Upper Division—Three—

(1) Direct recruitment—One.

(2) By promotion—Two.

(*b*) Muhammadan—One.

Scheduled Castes—One.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Maulvi AZHAR ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly let us know what was the method of recruitment—by advertisement or by what method?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I ask for notice.

Maulvi AZHAR ALI: After 1937 was there any move on the part of the Commissioner to appoint any Muhammadan clerk there in the Upper Division?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: By promotion or by direct recruitment?

Maulvi AZHAR ALI: By direct recruitment.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, one Muhammadan has been appointed.

Maulvi AZHAR ALI: That was by promotion?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Sir.

Maulvi AZHAR ALI: So by direct recruitment there was none?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Direct recruitment was by advertisement, I assume, and probably the best candidate was selected.

Maulvi AZHAR ALI: I beg to intimate to the Hon'ble Minister in charge that the only Muhammadan in the Upper Division was by promotion and although by direct recruitment one candidate was appointed in 1938 and one in 1939, no Muhammadan was taken.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: What is the question?

Maulvi AZHAR ALI: I want to know whether the Commissioner tried to find out any suitable candidate by direct recruitment?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I am sure he did, because if the post was advertised, as I presume it was, there was no question of special attempt on the part of the Commissioner because Hindus and Muhammadans all applied and one candidate was selected out of the candidates who so applied.

Maulvi AZHAR ALI: Then the Hon'ble Minister is not aware whether the post was advertised or not?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: No, I am not aware of it.

Maulvi AZHAR ALI: Then the presumption does not arise?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I have already asked for notice on that point.

Tenders for the construction of new Customs Offices in Calcutta.

No. 25A question (unstarred) of the November-December Session, 1939.

Statement is laid on the Library Table as per sub-paragraphs (*b*) and (*c*) of the reply.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I just want to draw your attention to the last portion of unstarred question No. 13 which appears to have been a misprint, regarding tenders for the construction of new Customs Offices in Calcutta. I was just wondering if it was a part of question No. 13. If not,——

Mr. SPEAKER: That refers to question No. 25A, which you may remember, you yourself put in the last session.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But unfortunately, Sir, that question is not given and so we cannot follow it.

Mr. SPEAKER: However, you are not putting supplementary questions on it now.

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJI: Sir, I gave notice of an adjournment motion, but have not got any reply as yet.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid we have not yet been acclimatized to the season and therefore may have been late in giving you a reply. However, I will let you know to-morrow.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is there any other adjournment motion coming up to-day? Perhaps not. Then, Sir, may I rise on a question of privilege?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Question of Privilege.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, on the 9th of February last our attention was drawn to a statement published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* with a big headline, namely, "Minimum price of jute", purporting to be a statement of what its editor calls "A prominent legislator", and this prominent legislator is Khan Bahadur Hashem Ali Khan who proposed in that statement that he would move an adjournment motion on the very first day of this session of the Assembly with regard to the fixation of the minimum price of jute. I submit, Sir, that this kind of threat or publicity would only help certain speculators——

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, I have nothing to do with it. What is your point of privilege?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I submit, Sir, that it is certainly a very great wrong done to the members of this House and to you in particular to give publicity to such a news before you are acquainted with the motion at all or before you have given your consent to the moving of such a motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you please let me see the statement?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is certainly there, but it is most unfortunate that the reply was not published.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, I cannot control the editorial columns of any newspaper.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Then it becomes all the more a matter of privilege so that we may get here and now an opportunity of questioning the *bona fides* of the statement if the matter was brought up as a privilege motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: If you frame a motion about that matter for reference to the Committee of Privileges and if I consider it necessary, I will admit it.

Prayer Adjournment.

Mr. SPEAKER: I may tell the House that the prayer adjournment comes off at 6 o'clock. I would therefore enquire if it would be convenient for us to adjourn for prayer now and take up the Budget Statement thereafter at one stretch, or to have the Budget Statement just now and break off at 6 p.m. or about 6-15 p.m., and then continue the statement after adjournment.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Sir, it depends upon the length of the Budget Statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not know either the length or breadth of the statement.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I submit that the formal business on the agenda be finished first, namely, laying the Ordinance on the table, etc.?

Auditor-General's Report on Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, in pursuance of section 169 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I lay before the Assembly, a copy of the Report of the Auditor-General of India relating to the Accounts of this Province for the year 1938-39.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, is it permisisible for any Hon'ble Minister to make such a statement without "laying" the report on the table as we have not yet received any copy?

Mr. SPEAKER: The report and the accounts will soon be laid on the table.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Let us know that, Sir, we are ready for this distribution.

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as the Jute Ordinance is concerned, it cannot be laid on the table now, for it is more in the nature of a legislation. So it will be dealt with subsequently.

Motor Vehicles Rules.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I submit another matter before the House, Sir? It relates to the rules made under the new Indian Motor Vehicles Act. Under section 133(3) of the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, all rules made by a Provincial Government are required to be laid before a Provincial Legislature for not less than 14 days, or as soon as possible after they are made, and should be subjected to such modification as the Legislature may deem fit. The rules in question were published in the *Calcutta Gazette* on the 13th January, 1940, under notification No. 28-Police, dated the 5th January, 1940.

Mr. SPEAKER: Under what rule, you say, these rules should be laid before the Assembly?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Under section 133(3) of the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939.

Mr. SPEAKER: Have you got the Act with you?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, Sir, I have not got it before me, but a copy can be procured for you.

Mr. SPEAKER: What does Sir Nazimuddin say to this?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I am not now in a position to answer this question, I may do so to-morrow.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Suhrawardy, may I know how long you will take to finish your Budget Speech?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It will take about 40 minutes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then in that case it is better that I adjourn the House now till 6-15 p.m.

(The House then adjourned till 6-15.)

(After adjournment.)

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1940-41.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I have the honour to present the Budget Estimates for 1940-41. I must deplore my misfortune that I have to present a deficit budget to the House and that for the second year in succession we shall have to draw upon our balances in order to cover our revenue expenditure. I deplore this all the more as I have not had time since I assumed charge of this portfolio to appraise the situation sufficiently to suggest concrete remedies.

Since my predecessor, whose absence from the Treasury Benches perhaps no one regrets more than myself, presented the estimates of 1939-40 a year ago, a cataclysm has overtaken the world; forces have been unleashed with dire consequences to world economy.

The major powers are waging war by all indications to an extreme conclusion. It is impossible to prophesy to what extent the other countries of the world will be dragged into the vortex. The immediate effects of the war have been for the most part beneficial to the economy of the province, but it would be dangerous to enlarge our commitments on the basis of that prosperity and not to take precautions against the slump which all previous experience suggests must inevitably follow. Further, we must be ready and prepared to take our due share in the burden of the war should events move nearer home and involve us more directly and closely. Partly therefore on account of our revenue position which I shall consider unsatisfactory until such time as the income can be increased to meet the natural developments of our nation-building departments, and partly on account of the precautions that we must take against contingencies over which we have no control,

the Budget of this year does not contain any spectacular features, nor have the Departments taken up any new long range schemes likely to involve the finances of the province in recurring expenditure of considerable magnitude. In my opinion, it would be fatal to the finances of the province if, deceived by an artificial prosperity due to war conditions, we permitted ourselves to undertake new commitments that we cannot hope to be able to maintain. The position has been very ably reviewed in the recently published report of the Central Board of the Directors of the Reserve Bank and I make no apology for quoting the following extract:—

> "On the whole therefore the economic outlook at the end of 1939 appeared to be brighter than at any time during the past ten years, although memories of the aftermath of the last war were sufficiently recent to lead to a fairly general realisation of the fact that war profits are essentially artificial and transient and that in a major conflict of this nature no country can hope to escape the inevitable strain on her economic resources."

With this brief warning against short-sighted optimism, I turn to the estimates now in the hands of the members. It is usual when considering the estimates to refer to the actuals of the previous year and the Revised Estimates of the current year. In accordance with this usage I propose to refer briefly to the salient features of the final accounts for the year 1938-39.

The Revised Estimates for that year which were incorporated in the Budget for the current year, as presented to the Legislature in February last, disclosed a revenue deficit of 21·72 lakhs In actual working, the apprehended deficit did not materialise and revenue receipts almost exactly balanced expenditure on revenue account. This was brought about by an increase of over 5 lakhs in receipts and a reduction of over 16 lakhs in expenditure. The improvement in receipts was shared by Land Revenue (5 lakhs), Excise (2 lakhs), and Stamps (7 lakhs), and was partly set off by a drop of a little less than 9 lakhs under Jute Duty. The decrease in expenditure was due to savings of 7 lakhs under Civil Works and of 2 lakhs each under General Administration, Administration of Justice, Police, and Public Health. The decrease under Civil Works was due to slow progress in the execution of building projects. The savings under General Administration were due mainly to smaller expenditure on the legislative bodies, and those under Police and Administration of Justice were distributed over a large number of heads. Savings in the Public Health Budget were due to absence of epidemic diseases for which a precautionary provision had been retained in the Revised.

Against the improvement of 22 lakhs in the revenue position there was a net decline of 9 lakhs in the Capital and Debt Deposit Section of

the Budget. This was due to a decrease of 19 lakhs in net receipts on account of transactions under "District Funds" and "Civil Deposits" compensated partly by a decrease of 10 lakhs in disbursements under the "Cash Balance Investment Account". The decrease in the case of "District Funds" was due to smaller inflow of cess and in the case of "Civil Deposits" to a decline in litigation. The decrease under the "Cash Balance Investment Account" was due to the fact that the state of the Provincial balances did not permit of investment in Treasury Bills to the extent originally anticipated.

The net result of the year's working, therefore, was an addition of 13 lakhs to the closing balance, which was thereby raised from 78 lakhs in the Revised Estimates to 91 lakhs in the final accounts. This figure included a sum of 23 lakhs, representing the balances of certain accounts earmarked for specific purposes. The largest of these balances were 14¾ lakhs in the Central Road Fund Account and 4¾ lakhs in the Scheduled Castes Education Fund Account.

It should be mentioned, however, that at the end of the year 1938-39 the resources of Government, in addition to the cash balance of 91 lakhs, included investments in Treasury Bills to the extent of 75 lakhs and securities, held outside the public accounts of the nominal value of 38½ lakhs. There was, moreover, a sum of 10 lakhs in securities in the Famine Insurance Fund set up under the terms of the Bengal Famine Insurance Act, 1937.

It will be obvious from the accounts of 1938-39 that the opulence which marked the opening year of Provincial Autonomy had disappeared at the close of the second year. Thus against a revenue surplus of a crore and 18 lakhs in 1937-38, there was no surplus at all on revenue account in 1938-39. The closing balance was down by 45 lakhs, while investment in Treasury Bills was smaller by a similar amount. This change was partly due to the heavy programme of additional revenue expenditure undertaken in 1938-39 and partly to abnormally large payments of loans to agriculturists on account of damages caused by floods. In spite of these unforeseen demands on their resources, Government were able to maintain an adequate cash balance in the Treasuries and in the Reserve Bank throughout the year. There were, however, a few occasions on which the balance at the Reserve Bank threatened to fall below the prescribed minimum and temporary advances had to be taken from the Bank. The aggregate amount of these ways and means advances amounted to 90 lakhs. These advances were all repaid within a period of ten or twelve days. No such advances had been required in 1937-38.

Let me now turn to the Revised Estimates for the current year which has still a month and a half to run. The original estimates placed before the House in February last assumed that the year would start with an opening balance of 78 lakhs. Revenue receipts were placed at

13 crores 78 lakhs and expenditure at 14 crores 65 lakhs or 87 lakhs more than our receipts. On the assumption that investment of the Provincial balances in Treasury Bills would be on the same scale as in the Revised Estimates for 1938-39, ordinary transactions under the Capital and Debt Deposit Section of the Budget were expected to result in a deficit of 6 lakhs. The total deficit thus came to 93 lakhs; 87 lakhs on revenue account and 6 lakhs outside this account. At the time the budget was prepared it was estimated that there would be in existence outside the closing balance reserves to the extent of 85 lakhs in Treasury Bills, 38⅓ lakhs in securities and 10 lakhs in the Famine Insurance Fund. These reserves would have been sufficient to cover the deficit but at that time it was thought advisable to conserve these reserves and our intention was to raise a loan of 1 crore of rupees. The net result, on the basis of these estimates, was a surplus of 7 lakhs; this surplus with the opening balance of 78 lakhs would have produced a closing balance of 85 lakhs in addition to the reserves.

According to the Revised Estimates the current year starts with an opening balance of 91 lakhs—that is to say, the actual closing balance of 1938-39. Revenue receipts are expected to be 25 lakhs more, and expenditure on revenue account 48 lakhs less than was originally anticipated. There is, accordingly, an improvement of 13 lakhs in the opening balance and 73 lakhs on revenue account or 86 lakhs in all. Under the Capital and Debt Deposit Section of the Budget there has been a net worsening of 16 lakhs. The combined effect of these variations is an increase of 70 lakhs in the closing balance which is raised from the 85 lakhs of the original estimate to 1 crore 55 lakhs in the Revised. But whereas the budget assumed that in addition to the cash balance we should hold 85 lakhs of Government of India Treasury Bills, no such investment has been possible and apart from certain securities with a nominal value of 38⅓ lakhs and 12 lakhs in the Famine Insurance Fund the revised closing balance of 1 crore 55 lakhs represents the sum total of the province's balance.

The Budget for the current year made one major assumption which subsequent events have proved incorrect. The House will recall that in presenting the Budget for the current year, my predecessor observed—

> "In my estimates, I have assumed that revenues will come in roughly at the level on which they have flowed during the last few months. I have assumed that war in Europe will not break out."

The outbreak of hostilities have naturally upset the calculations on which the Budget Estimates were framed.

Another assumption made by my predecessor was that we should raise a loan of a crore. Some time before the commencement of hostilities in Europe, it was decided not to have resort to a loan. This loan was to have been taken not in connection with any specific scheme of expenditure but in order that our reserves might not be unduly depleted.

In view of the uncertainty of world conditions and their unsettling effect on the money market, Government considered it inadvisable to resort to a loan in the open market for the sake of conserving their existing reserves. The sounder alternative appeared to be to utilise such reserves as were immediately convertible and to issue Treasury Bills for short terms to tide over temporary difficulties in the Ways and Means position. As a result, Treasury Bills aggregating a crore and fifty lakhs have been or will be issued during the year: of this amount 90 lakhs are expected to be repaid before the close of the year. Thus, in lieu of a liability for a long term debt of one crore which was originally contemplated Government will have on their hands Treasury Bills worth 60 lakhs which it is hoped to repay in the course of the coming year.

The main heads of revenue affected by the War are Jute Duty, Income-tax, Land Revenue, and Stamps. The stoppage of exports to Germany, Poland and Czecho-Slovakia has caused an appreciable decline in our receipts from the Jute Duty, and, so far, the increased off-take of the Allies in the form of sand-bags and hessians has not been sufficient to compensate in full for the complete loss of exports to the Central and Northern European countries. The receipts of the Provinces under Section 138 of the Government of India Act are at present linked with, and depend upon the amount of, the contribution paid to Central Revenues by Railways: as a result of the improvement in railway earnings we expect a larger contribution under Income-tax. Greater activity in the share market and better trading results have led to an improvement under receipts from Non-Judicial Stamps. Finally some improvement in Land Revenue collection is expected as a result of the rise in prices of agricultural produce.

On the expenditure side of the Budget there has been an increase on account of certain extraordinary charges necessitated by the War, the most important of which are Air-raid precautions, control of prices and the employment of extra Police for guarding protected areas. The bulk of these charges will eventually be recovered from the Government of India. On the other hand the War has necessitated the postponement or abandonment of certain items of expenditure. In this category may be placed the curtailment of leave outside India involving smaller expenditure on leave arrangements; non-utilisation of State Scholarships tenable in European countries and the postponement of some original civil works, in view of the general rise in the price of materials.

With these prefatory observations let me now turn to the details under the various heads.

The increase in the opening balance has already been explained.

The net increase in Revenue receipts amounts to 25 lakhs. It will be recalled that the Budget includes 93 lakhs on account of provincialisation of certain revenues which used to be paid direct to

local bodies. It now appears that the original estimate of these revenues was badly out: they are not likely to exceed 68 lakhs. This figure has been adopted for the Revised. The deflation of 25 lakhs is distributed over the following heads:—Land Revenue (22 lakhs), Administration of Justice (2½ lakhs) and Miscellaneous (half a lakh). It will be seen that if these Adaptation receipts are left out of consideration, the Revised Estimate of Revenue is actually 50 lakhs better than the Budget. Of this improvement 34 lakhs is due to an accounting adjustment designed to bring within the public accounts certain securities hitherto held outside these accounts. The value of these securities has been credited as revenue receipts and a corresponding debit has been shown under the "Cash Balance Investment Account" in the Debt Deposit Section of the Budget. The balance of 16 lakhs is made up mainly of the following:—an improvement of 21 lakhs under Income-tax, 7 lakhs under Land Revenue proper (i.e., excluding Adaptation receipts), 8 lakhs under Stamps, 5 lakhs under Registration and 6 lakhs under Other Taxes and Duties; set off by a decrease of 30 lakhs under Jute Duty receipts. I have already explained the reasons for the variations under Income-tax, Land Revenue, Stamps and Jute Duty. The increase under Other Taxes and Duties is due to the proceeds of the Bengal Finance Act, 1939, which came into operation after the Budget had been passed. The growth under Registration is due to an unexpected increase in the number of registrations.

Of the decrease of 48 lakhs in expenditure on revenue account 25 lakhs is attributable to the fact that the Adaptation receipts which are to be made over to local bodies are smaller by this amount than was originally anticipated. The balance (23 lakhs) is the net result of excesses and savings spread over a number of heads, details of which will be found in the Red Book. I shall here confine myself to the more important variations. There is a decrease of 13 lakhs under Civil Works owing to smaller expenditure on building projects - some of which were postponed on account of the situation created by the War. Savings to the extent of 10 lakhs occur under Medical and Public Health owing to the time required for working out details of some large projects for which lump provisions were included in the Budget. The Irrigation Budget shows a saving of nearly 4 lakhs owing mainly to non-utilisation of the provision for the Waterways Board. There is a saving of 4 lakhs under Debt Conciliation owing to the slow progress in the establishment of Debt Conciliation Boards. Over 3 lakhs has been saved under General Administration mainly through the non-utilisation of certain lump provisions included in the Budget. Under Administration of Justice there has been a decrease of over 4 lakhs mainly due to smaller expenditure under "Pay of Officers" and "Charges in England". As against these savings there is an

increase of 6 lakhs under Agriculture on account of the Jute Registration Survey; of 7 lakhs under Famine Relief on account of relief in areas affected by flood or drought; and 7 lakhs under Extraordinary Charges on account of expenditure arising out of the War, to which a reference has already been made.

The Capital and Debt Deposit Section of the Budget as already stated reveals a net worsening of 16 lakhs. The explanation of this variation is as follows: The Budget allowed for the receipt of one crore on account of a long term loan. The Revised omits this item but includes in lieu a sum of 60 lakhs on account of outstanding Treasury Bills. There is thus a decrease of 40 lakhs in receipts. On the Disbursement side the Budget provided for the investment of 85 lakhs in Treasury Bills. No such investment appears in the Revised but there is an unforeseen item, viz., the investment of 34 lakhs in securities as a part of the accounting adjustment designed to bring these securities within the public accounts to which reference has already been made. There is accordingly a saving of 51 lakhs in Disbursements on account of smaller investments. These transactions would have resulted in an improvement of 11 lakhs (i.e., 51 lakhs *less* 40 lakhs) but unexpectedly heavy disbursements on account of agricultural loans have converted the improvement to a net worsening of 16 lakhs.

There are two items outside the closing balance of 1 crore 55 lakhs shown in the Revised—namely, securities of the nominal value of 38⅓ lakhs and a sum of 12 lakhs in securities in the Famine Insurance Fund. And we carry over into 1940-41 a liability for the repayment of 60 lakhs of Provincial Treasury Bills.

I will now turn to our proposals for the coming year. The year is expected to start with an opening balance of 1 crore and 55 lakhs. On the assumption that the existing level of taxation will be maintained and no new sources of revenue will be tapped during the year ending 31st March, 1941, revenue receipts have been placed at 13 crores 97 lakhs as compared with the 14 crores 3 lakhs of the Revised. The decrease of 6 lakhs is due mainly to a fall of 27 lakhs under Extraordinary Receipts and 10 lakhs under Land Revenue, compensated, to a great extent, by an improvement of 20 lakhs under Jute Duty, 2 lakhs under Income Tax, 6 lakhs under Other Taxes and Duties and 5 lakhs under Civil Works. I have already referred to the accounting adjustment of 34 lakhs included in the Revised under Extraordinary Receipts in respect of securities previously held outside the public accounts: the only receipts we can foresee under this head during 1940-41 is a sum of 7 lakhs by way of recoveries from the Central Government on account of War charges met from Provincial revenues in the current year. The decrease under Land Revenue is due mainly to smaller recoveries on account of survey and settlement charges.

The increase under Jute Duty is based on hopes of larger exports in consequence of improved shipping facilities. The yield from Income Tax is expected to be higher as a result of improvement in trade. The increase under Other Taxes and Duties is due to larger collections under the Bengal Finance Act, 1939, since collections will proceed throughout the coming year as against a few months in the present year. The increase of 5 lakhs under Civil Works is due to larger transfers from the Road Development Account in order to finance a more extensive programme of road development.

I next turn to our proposals for expenditure.

The estimates provide for an expenditure on revenue account of 14 crores 54 lakhs, which is 37 lakhs more than the Revised Estimates for the current year. In Appendix II, attached to the printed copy of this statement, will be found an enumeration of the main heads under which increased provision has been made. The total increase according to this Appendix is 54 lakhs but against these increases must be set decreased provisions under Agriculture (5 lakhs), Commutation of Pensions (6 lakhs) and Famine Relief (7 lakhs). The reduction under Famine Relief is based on the hope that conditions during the coming year will be normal. Our present financial position will not allow us to repeat this year's provision under Commutation of Pensions. The smaller provision under Agriculture is due to the fact that the revised estimate for the current year under this head includes an abnormal item of 7 lakhs on account of the survey of jute lands. The estimates for 1940-41 do not make provision for any similar expenditure. It will be remembered however that on the first of this month—and after the estimates now before the House had been sent to the Press—Government decided to regulate the coming jute crop by legislation and I have no doubt that in due course it will be necessary to come to you with a supplementary demand for the funds required to meet the cost of the measures necessary to give effect to that decision.

The bulk of the increase in expenditure in the coming year is due to new schemes included in the Budget. My honourable colleagues will, in due course, explain the details of these schemes while moving the demands for grants relating to their respective Departments. I propose, however, to refer to some of the more important items for which provision has been made in the Budget.

Under Land Revenue the Budget provides for revisional survey and settlement operations in the districts of Bakarganj and Faridpur at a total ultimate cost of 40½ lakhs. During 1940-41 the expenditure on this account will be 4½ lakhs.

The Irrigation Budget includes a number of important new schemes. One of these is a contour survey of North Bengal at an ultimate cost of nearly 4 lakhs of rupees. The provision included in next year's Budget on account of this scheme is Rs. 25,000. Other large schemes

which it is proposed to initiate in the coming year are the improvement of Tolly's Nullah at a cost of about 1½ lakhs (ultimate), the reclamation of the Madhumati River in the district of Khulna at a cost of about 1 lakh (ultimate), and the improvement of the Aurora Khal in the district of Hooghly at a cost of Rs. 90,000 (ultimate). A provision of Rs. 50,000 has been made with a view to assist District Boards in undertaking small irrigation projects drawn up in consultation with the technical experts of Government.

I would ask honourable members to look on the additional provision included in the coming year's estimates as an earnest of the willingness of Government to take up schemes in the districts of Bengal which will benefit the people in a measure more than commensurate with the cost involved. It is a matter of great regret that the finances of the province have not permitted us to make provision for many such schemes during 1940-41 and I can assure the House that should our finances permit, we shall not hesitate to come before the House for further provision.

The Education Budget repeats the special additional provision of 5 lakhs for primary education in the cess-paying districts and contains enhanced provision in respect of certain important schemes initiated in earlier years. Thus, there is an additional provision of over 2 lakhs for the training of teachers for Primary Schools; of Rs. 50,000 for grants to Madrassahs; of Rs. 40,000 for the award of scholarships; and of a similar amount for the expansion of the Lady Brabourne College. There is a provision of 1½ lakhs representing the final instalment of the grant of 2½ lakhs to the Dacca University for the additional Muslim Hall; and of Rs. 40,000 for a grant to that University in connection with the recently organised Faculty of Agriculture. The Budget also provides for a grant of Rs. 67,500 to the Sadaat College, Karotia, being the second instalment of a grant of a lakh and thirty-five thousand to this institution to enable it to complete its building projects. Rs. 50,000 has been provided for a grant to the Bengal Bratachari Society for the acquisition of land and the construction of buildings and Rs. 20,000 has been provided for a capital grant to the Vidyasagar Bani Bhawan, Calcutta. A provision of Rs. 15,000 has been made for additional building grants to Madrassahs and of Rs. 11,000 for a capital grant to the Faridpur Girls' Junior Madrassah. Rs. 9,000 has been provided for the extension of Primary and Middle English education in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and Rs. 6,000 as a grant to the Bodhana Samiti towards the cost of constructing a segregation camp at Jhargram, in the district of Midnapore, for the reception of juvenile mental defectives. With a view to provide improved hostel amenities for Muslim students it is proposed to extend the dining hall attached to the Muslim Hostel of the Dacca Intermediate College at a cost of Rs. 21,000 and to construct a hostel for Muslim students of the Pirojpur Government High School at a cost of Rs. 15,000.

The Budget provides for an increase of 5½ lakhs under Debt Conciliation for the establishment of additional Debt Settlement Boards. A special provision of Rs. 12,000 has been made to meet the cost of rewards to selected Chairmen and Members of Debt Settlement Boards in recognition of their meritorious services.

There has been a progressive increase of expenditure under Co-operative Credit due primarily to the reorganisation of the staff of the Department, the appointment of additional auditors, increased provision for co-operative training and the expansion of its activities in fields other than credit. This year we have made a provision of Rs. 28,500 to meet the cost of establishing five additional Land Mortgage Banks to provide further facilities for long term credit in rural areas. A change in the policy regarding these banks is under consideration so as to enlarge their usefulness and make them self-supporting in due course.

In June last Government afforded a cash credit of thirteen and a half lakhs to the Provincial Co-operative Bank to supplement its resources and to enable it to provide short term credit to the agriculturists on a wider scale. The favourable returns that the agriculturist has received from his staple crops since the outbreak of war in Europe will, we hope, relieve him from the necessity of having recourse to loans for agricultural purposes during the coming year and the provision on this account in the Loans and Advances section of the estimates for 1940-41 has been limited to the normal precautionary provision of Rs. 5 lakhs. If, however, the occasion demands and the Provincial Bank is unable to meet the requirements from its own resources, Government will approach the House for a supplementary grant and I am certain that the House will not grudge it. The great problem, however, of the Co-operative Credit Department is still the rehabilitation of the movement in the esteem of the people of the Province. For this purpose a scheme designed to bring the demands of the societies down to the level of the paying capacity of the debtors is under preparation. I hope the House will hear more of the scheme in the near future.

The Medical Budget includes a provision of 2 lakhs 65 thousand rupees for grant to the Lady Dufferin Victoria Hospital, Calcutta. Other special grants to hospitals which are proposed for the coming year are:—an annual grant of Rs. 10,000 to the Jadavpur Tuberculosis Hospital towards the upkeep of 10 beds to be reserved for mufassal patients, and capital grants of Rs. 20,000 for the S. K. Hospital, Mymensingh; Rs. 5,500 for the Australian Baptist Mission Hospital at Birisiri in the district of Mymensingh; Rs. 4,500 to the Prince Gholam Muhammad Charitable Dispensary at Tollygunge; and Rs. 3,000 for the Santhal Mission Hospital at Sarenga in the district of Bankura. Rs. 15,000 has been provided for a much-needed increase in the nursing staff of the Medical College Hospitals, Calcutta. An additional grant

of Rs. 7,500 is proposed to be made to the Association for the Prevention of Blindness in Bengal with a view to enable the Association to run five travelling eye dispensaries which have given such good service in the districts. It is further proposed to make a grant of Rs. 10,000 to the Indian Institute for Medical Research. Provision has been made for a contribution of Rs. 4,000 towards the establishment of a General Council and State Faculty for the Unani system of medicine and Rs. 1,000 to the Faculty of Ayurvedic Medicine.

The Public Health Budget includes 7½ lakhs of rupees for rural water-supply, 5 lakhs for free distribution of quinine, 2½ lakhs for anti-malaria schemes, and 1½ lakhs for *kala-azar* and other epidemic diseases. Half a lakh has been provided for maternity and child welfare centres. A provision of Rs. 24,000 has been made for a scheme of public health organisation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Rs. 18,000 has been provided for a scheme of school hygiene, Rs. 40,000 for a grant to the Ram Krishna Mission Sishu Mangal Pratisthan, Calcutta, and Rs. 5,000 for a grant to the Ram Krishna Medical Society for Women. In furtherance of the policy of making grants from Provincial revenues up to one-third of the total cost of water-supply projects the following provisions have been made in respect of Water Works Improvement Schemes:—1 lakh for Dacca, Rs. 29,000 for Munshiganj, Rs. 26,000 for Pirojpur, and Rs. 18,000 for Jhalakati

Under Agriculture provision has been made for the establishment of an Agricultural Institute at Dacca at a cost of 1 lakh 28 thousand rupees. The Budget also includes Rs. 66,000 for the electrification of the Manipur Farm, Dacca, Rs. 26,000 for the establishment of additional Union Board Farms and Union Board Demonstration Centres and Rs. 18,000 for the opening of a Physical Section under the Agricultural Chemist. [DR. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: At Dacca. (Laughter.)] It is proposed to take over the Bhutnath Paul Agricultural School at Chinsura (Laughter) at a cost of Rs. 35,000 including Rs. 21,000 for buildings. A sum of Rs. 2,000 has been provided for a grant to the All-India Cattle Show Society and Rs. 5,000 for the supply of outfit boxes to Livestock Officers and Assistant Livestock Officers. It will be recalled that a sum of Rs. 58,000 was provided in the current year for buildings in connection with a new District Agricultural Farm at Chittagong. There is a provision of Rs. 4,000 in next year's budget to meet the expenses of running this farm

The increase of 13 lakhs under Civil Works is due mainly to the provision for new buildings and additional road development fund works. The latter account for an increase of about 6 lakhs and the balance is due to building projects belonging to various Departments. Some of these have already been mentioned under the relevant service heads. Among the remainder the provisions which call for special mention are the following:—85 thousand for the construction of

worksheds in the Dum Dum Central Jail; 48 thousand for the installation of a fully equipped testing station for motor vehicles in Calcutta; 46 thousand for providing accommodation for the Garden Reach Police Sub-Section; 27 thousand for the construction of cooly lines at the Royal Botanic Garden, Sibpur; and 25 thousand for the construction of witness sheds in Civil Courts. In view of our straitened financial circumstances and of the rise in price of certain materials, expenditure on building is being limited to projects that cannot be postponed without serious administrative inconvenience.

Three lakhs of rupees is again being placed at the disposal of the District Officers to further the programme of Rural Reconstruction and a further sum of 2½ lakhs has been interspersed under various Budget heads at the disposal of the Department of Rural Reconstruction. The work of Rural Reconstruction is going on solidly and silently, and Pallimangal Samities are being formed not in a spasm of enthusiasm, but broadbased on a genuine appreciation of the benefits of co-operation and voluntary labour and the urge for village uplift. Such a movement contains in it the seed of expansion and permanency. All that it needs is knowledge and guidance. To implement this a training camp has been opened at a village called Bishnupur on the Diamond Harbour Road at which 60 selected Circle Officers are receiving both theoretical and practical training. Manuals are being prepared which will be of guidance not only to them but to all workers in this field. If this experiment is a success, it is hoped that it will be expanded and multiplied so that officials and non-officials and all those interested in service to the masses may be in a position to further the cause of Rural Reconstruction.

There are one or two miscellaneous items that deserve mention.

The Budget includes provision for grants to two highly deserving institutions that cater for the needs of the destitute, namely, the St. Joseph's Home for the aged and the Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage, Dacca. Twenty-four thousand has been provided for the former and twenty-seven thousand for the latter. In the interest of the labour force employed in our cinchona plantations it is proposed to construct two indoor hospitals at Mungpoo and Munsong at a cost of Rs. 18,000. A provision of Rs. 20,000 has been made for grants to labour welfare organisations and Rs. 10,000 has been provided for committees of enquiry and boards of conciliation under the Trade Disputes Act.

During the course of the current financial year several committees appointed by Government have submitted their reports. The recommendations of the Jute and the Paddy Committees are now under consideration. The Adult Education Committee has submitted a preliminary report, so also has the Committee for Primary Education. The Industrial Survey Committee has made certain preliminary

recommendations. The Land Revenue Commission is expected to submit its report in March. The Special Officer appointed for electricity survey has made certain suggestions that are of far-reaching importance and require close examination. The Chaukidari Committee will shortly publish its report, and its recommendations may call for drastic financial adjustments.

Government may have to come before the House for provision to give effect to the decisions arrived at after the examinations now in progress have been completed.

Before I pass to the summary with which I shall conclude my statement on the estimates, I must refer briefly to two spheres in which Government have recently taken noteworthy action. Although one of these spheres concerns me more by reason of my holding charge of the portfolio of Commerce and Labour than as Finance Minister, both are of such far-reaching importance to the economy of the province that I make no apology for mentioning them to-day.

The first concerns the measures aimed at securing for the growers of jute an adequate price for their produce.

Government can, with some degree of pardonable pride, claim to have materially assisted the agriculturists in obtaining an adequate price for their jute. (Laughter.) The steps taken to stem the decline in jute prices when the new crop came on to the market were effective and the advice given by Government to the jute-growers not to be stampeded by rumours and by market manipulations has borne beneficial results. The advent of war, the general rise in prices consequent thereon and Government orders for jute fabrics have given an upward stimulus to the price. The jute-growers therefore have this year been able to obtain a very fair price for their produce and this has been reflected in our finances. We trust that the agriculturists, remembering the trying days of depression through which they have just passed, will not fritter away this windfall but will utilise it to free themselves from the incubus of debt and once more face the world with courage and faith in their future destiny. Government have now definitely embarked on a policy of compulsory control of jute production, as they feel that the agriculturists should be given adequate guidance to enable them to secure a profitable return. In order to ascertain the best ways and means of securing this object, an expert committee will shortly be appointed to which will be entrusted a matter only less important to the prosperity of the province than that now under enquiry by the Land Revenue Commission.

The declaration of war was followed almost immediately by a sudden rise in the price of commodities and a panic wholly unjustified prevailed in the market for a few days. The Government of Bengal took immediate measures to allay the panic, measures which were highly commended at the time by the Press and the public. A Chief

Price Controller was appointed. This officer is assisted by an Advisory Board composed of representatives of all sections of the public. District Officers were invested with similar powers and are assisted by Advisory Committees. The result has been eminently successful and prices have been kept within bounds. We have had unfortunately from time to time to take action against those who wished to take undue advantage of the present emergency and to profiteer, but on the whole our regulations have been obeyed, and the discontent and disturbances that would have followed if the prices had been uncontrolled, have been avoided. No attempt has ever been made to control the price of agricultural commodities. If the war continues, this Department may have to be expanded. The cost, however, will be recovered from the Government of India.

Let me review the financial results of the working of the coming year according to the estimates just presented to the House. We expect to start the year with an opening balance of 1 crore 55 lakhs. Our revenue receipts have been placed at 13 crores 97 lakhs and our expenditure on revenue account at 14 crores 54 lakhs. This means that we have to draw upon the opening balance to the extent of 57 lakhs and our balance is accordingly reduced to 98 lakhs. In the Capital and Debt Deposit Section of the Budget there is a net deficit of 26 lakhs on the year's working. This deficit is due mainly to the repayment of 60 lakhs of Treasury Bills outstanding from 1939-40 counterbalanced to a large extent by a surplus under Loans and Advances where we hope our recoveries will be considerably in excess of disbursements. The deficit of 26 lakhs under the Capital and Debt Deposit Section of the Budget further reduces our balance to 72 lakhs—the figure shown as our closing balance in the Civil Estimate for 1940-41. The only items outside the closing balance are our investment in the Famine Insurance Fund (about 12 lakhs) and securities of the nominal value of 38½ lakhs.

The Budget presented to this House a year ago was a deficit Budget. It was estimated that expenditure would exceed revenue by 87 lakhs. We now expect that the deficit for the current year will be considerably smaller. As a result of an accounting adjustment of 34 lakhs the deficit in the Revised Estimates now before the House appears as 14 lakhs but excluding this accounting adjustment the amount by which we expect our revenue expenditure for the current year will exceed our revenue receipts is 48 lakhs. This amount will be met from our balances.

This year also the Budget which I have just presented is a deficit one. It will be necessary to draw on the opening balance to the extent of 57 lakhs, and it is anticipated that the closing balance of 1940-41 will be only 72 lakhs, i.e., only 23 lakhs above the minimum balance that we must maintain with the Reserve Bank and in our treasuries. This is an extremely narrow margin and leaves very little in our hands

to meet emergencies. Our expenditure has now reached a point at which we are living a little beyond our means, and pending a detailed survey of the possible new sources of revenue, there is no alternative but to mark time. We have been fortunate that we have not had to curtail the many beneficent activities that we have undertaken since we assumed office, but I am sure the House will agree with me that this is not enough. We must expand and expand progressively. There is such a crying need for an immediate expansion of our nation-building departments that to my colleagues, to the honourable members of this House, to all those in fact who know and deplore the conditions in which the ill-educated, ill-housed, ill-fed and malaria-stricken sons of Bengal live this year's Budget must be as great a disappointment as it is to me personally. If this year I have to be content to mark time it is not through any lack of zeal to be up and doing. This year financial stringency precludes our attempting more than we have proposed in these estimates, but let not the House suppose that we are content to sit idle. I am now engaged in a survey of the possible sources of new revenue permitted to provincial governments under the Government of India Act. I anticipate that before the end of the year for which I have just presented the estimates I shall place before the House proposals for new taxation. (Ah! ah!) I consider this step all the more necessary now while thanks to the conditions brought about by the hostilities in Europe we in Bengal have with us at least the semblance of prosperity. As I see it we must seize this opportunity to develop our resources and to build up reserves against the depression that we all fear will follow: we must aim at being in a position to lighten the severity of the inevitable slump by undertaking large scale schemes of civil works, irrigation and drainage. To-day, however, I would prefer not to attempt to forecast what the results of my survey will be. It will be sufficient for my purpose to-day if I remind honourable members of the House that the sources from which we draw our revenues are inelastic and offer little or no scope for large or immediate expansion at will: we might increase our revenue by 5, 10 or perhaps even 20 lakhs by enhancing the rates of our provincial tax acts, such as the entertainment tax, the electricity duty, etc., but the time has come when it is essential, if we are to pursue the programme that we have set before ourselves, to select one or two fields upon which to concentrate and having made that selection to come to you with new taxation proposals that will give us the necessary resources.

I regret to have to paint such a gloomy picture but I shall be failing in my duty if I did not remind you that the estimates of expenditure now before the House are based on normal pre-war prices and have been framed on the assumption that the Provincial Exchequer will not have to meet any demands in connection with the war. We must however remember that we may be called upon to meet unexpected demands arising out of the war and we shall almost certainly have to face higher

prices in many directions. And so I must ask my friends in this House and beyond this House not to feel disappointed that I have not already taken steps to raise new funds for the nation-building departments but to be patient and to have faith in the glorious destiny of our motherland.

APPENDIX I.

Summary of the financial position of the Government of Bengal in 1939-40 and 1940-41.

(Figures are in thousands.)

	1938-39. Actuals.	1939-40.				1940-41. Budget.
		Budget.	Supplementary.	Total.	Revised.	
Receipts.						
Opening Balance	1,36,01	78,02		78,02	91,01	1,54,88
Revenue Receipts	12,76,61	13,77,76	(a)5,00	13,82,76	14,02,70	13,97,28
Capital Receipts	.	..	..		.	..
Receipts from Debt, Deposits, etc.	16,56,64	21,32,61		21,32,61	15,50,17	13,11,64
Total ..	30,69,26	35,88,39	5,00	35,93,39	30,43,88	28,63,80
Expenditure.						
Revenue Expenditure	12,76,62	14,64,56	14,59	14,79,15	14,16,57	14,54,23
Capital Expenditure	− 2,81	− 3,01	..	3,01	− 2,95	− 3,22
Expenditure on Debt, Deposits, etc.	17,04,44	20,41,45	47,60	20,89,05	14,75,38	13,40,57
Closing Balance	91,01	(x)85,39		28,20	(y)1,54,88	(z)72,22
Total	30,69,26	35,88,39	62,19	35,93,39	30,43,88	28,63,80
Net Result.						
Surplus + Deficit − On Revenue Account.	− 1	− 86,80		− 96,39	13,87	− 56,95
Surplus + Deficit − Outside Revenue Account.	− 44,99	− 94,17	.	− 46,57	+ 77,74	− 25,71
Total— Surplus + Deficit − Excluding opening balance.	− 45,00	− 7,37	.	− 49,82	+ 63,87	− 82,66

(a) Due to the passage of the Bengal Finance Act.
(x) Excludes—
38,33 worth of securities.
85,00 invested in Treasury Bills.
(y) Excludes 38,33 worth of securities.
Includes a short term loan of 60 lakhs in Treasury Bills repayable in 1940-41.
(z) Excludes 38,33 worth of securities.

APPENDIX II.

(Figures are in thousands.)

	Revised, 1939-40.	Budget, 1940-41.	Increase.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Irrigation ..	19,02	24,91	5,89
General Administration ..	1,55,18	1,57,47	2,29
Debt Conciliation ..	17,50	23,12	5,62
Administration of Justice ..	97,86	1,00,89	3,03
Education—General ..	1,54,65	1,56,52	1,87
Medical ..	55,56	58,15	2,59
Public Health ..	41,39	48,43	7,04
Co-operation ..	14,38	15,39	1,01
Civil Works ..	1,46,31	1,59,72	13,41
Superannuation allowances and pensions	1,03,95	1,09,46	5,51
Extraordinary charges ..	7,03	12,61	5,58
			53,84

Mr. SPEAKER: Just before the Finance Minister presented the Budget he had presented the Appropriation Accounts, Finance Accounts and Audit Reports thereon for 1938-39. Under rule 110 of the Bengal Legislature Assembly Procedure Rules, I direct the Secretary to cause the publication of those Reports and copies of the Accounts and Reports to be made available for use by the members of this House. Sir Bijoy Prosad Singh Roy will now move his Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill.

Jute Regulation Ordinance, 1940.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Before Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy moves his Bill, may I have your permission to lay before the Assembly the Bengal Jute Regulation Ordinance, 1940, as promulgated by the Governor of Bengal under the provisions of section 88(*1*) of the Government of India Act, 1935?

(With Mr. Speaker's permission this was allowed to be done.)

GOVERNMENT BILLS.

The Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Bill, 1940.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINCH ROY: Sir, I beg to introduce the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Bill, 1940.

The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy will now move his next motion

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, before the Revenue Minister moves his Select Committee motion I beg to oppose the introduction of the Bill for the very simple reason that it is absolutely *ultra vires* of this Legislature to take this step. It militates against the Transfer of Property Act which is a Government of India Act——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid the Bill has already been in fact introduced. It is merely a formal matter and under the rules has been published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, and as such you can only oppose it at the next stage: that is the proper stage to oppose it.

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: I shall certainly take the earliest opportunity to oppose it, because it is absolutely *ultra vires* and absolutely illegal. Of course there is such a thing as the Federal Court to which the matter may be taken, but at the same time I am quite convinced—I have studied the Bill very carefully—that it militates against an all-India Act and as such I do not think, that you, Sir, as Speaker of this House ought to allow this Bill to be introduced.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINCH ROY: I also beg to move that the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Bill, 1940, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of—and with your permission, Sir, I would like to substitute the name of Mr. Israil in place of Maulvi Mafizuddin Ahmed—

(1) Maulvi Abdul Latif Biswas,

(2) Maulvi Hafizuddin Chowdhury,

(3) Mr. Banku Behari Mandal,

(4) Maulvi Muhammad Israil,

(5) Sir Hari Sankar Paul,

(6) Mr. G. Morgan,

(7) Mr. Surendra Mohan Maitra,

(8) Mr. P. Banerji,

(9) Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar,

(10) Mr. Promatha Ranjan Thakur, and

(11) myself,

with instructions to submit their report by the 26th February, 1940, and that the quorum of the Select Committee be fixed at five.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Bengal Finance (Amendment) Bill, 1940.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I beg to introduce the Bengal Finance (Amendment) Bill, 1940, which empowers Government to make rules providing for exemption or remission——

Mr. SPEAKER: You need not say that now. You simply move the Bill at this stage.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: All right, Sir. I beg to introduce the Bengal Finance (Amendment) Bill, 1940.

The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I also beg to move that the said Bill be taken into consideration.

This is a Bill, Sir, which empowers Government to make rules to provide for exemption from or remission of the tax imposed by the Bengal Finance Act, 1939, without reference to the Legislature. The Bengal Finance Act, section 7, as passed by the Legislature, provides that the Provincial Government might prescribe the exemption of any person or class of persons from the operation of that Act or the remission in whole or in part of the tax payable under this Act by any person or class of persons. The matter was fully discussed in this House at that time, and I understand the House unanimously passed this section. When, however, the matter went up to the Council, the Council made an alteration in this clause although this was in fact a money Bill, and they changed the word "prescribed" for the words "framed rules subject to the approval of the Provincial Legislature." But the matter came back to this House and at that time in order that Government might be in a position to levy the tax within the coming year, we requested the House to pass it with the amendment proposed by the Council, and we gave an assurance to the House at that time that we should avail ourselves of the next opportunity to introduce an

amendment which would put back the Bill in exactly the same position as before (Cries of "no, no," from the Congress benches). I was not in charge of the Bill then, but I think I was sitting in the Assembly on that occasion. Some honourable member opposite even at that time complained very strongly, rightly or wrongly, that the Council ought not to have tampered with the provisions of a money Bill when it was passed by this House.

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: May I rise on a point of order? Is the Hon'ble Minister entitled to use a language of that kind—"the Council had tampered with"? The other House is entitled to courtesy even from the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am using the words of other honourable members of this House. As for myself I think the Council, once it has seisin of this Bill, is entitled to do exactly as it pleases. The question was raised, there was a statement by some honourable member and there was an assurance given to this House. If honourable members will refer to the Official Report of the 5th Session, 1939, page 78, they will find the following:—

> "The Hon'ble Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER. I assure the House that I will get it modified in the next session of the Assembly."

That was after interpellations made by Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri, and before interpellations by Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas towards the end.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: What was the interpellation?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: You will find it there.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: You have referred to me. Please read out the interpellation which I made.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Not necessary.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: You don't understand the interpellation. You refer to me and mislead the House.

Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly withdraw it because after all Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri is a public man and the matter is going to be reported?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it is open to Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri to reply to it.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Honourable members will refer to the Assembly proceedings in due course. So far as the present motion is concerned, there should not be any objection in this House if the Government decide to carry out the wishes of this House once more and to make an amendment in a Bill in accordance with the wishes already expressed. I am indeed surprised to find that honourable members are interrupting when I place before the House a motion to carry out the wishes of this House already expressed on a previous occasion. Sir, I need not pursue the matter further. I may have to reply to any amendments which may be moved. But I thought that no amendments would be moved and honourable members, keeping if I may say so the self-respect of the House, intact will accept the motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I rise to oppose this motion more on grounds of principle than on other grounds, which I hope some other honourable members will take up. Of late there has been a tendency on the part of Government to take unusual powers under the cloak of making rules. This is not merely in this country but also in other countries. In fact, in an editorial article published in the *Statesman* as early as 28th May, 1939, it was pointed out how this rule making power has been really encroaching upon the legitimate privileges of the legislature. A new book, the book of Lord Heward, Lord Chief Justice of England, on New Despotism"——

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Quoting the *Statesman*!

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am quoting one of your very respectable journals. I am quoting the *Bengal Weekly*.

In that book he has demonstrated how increasing attempts are made by the executive to go out of the control of the judiciary by virtue of such rule making powers. We have had very bad experience in regard to Agricultural Debtors Act Rules and the Co-operative Societies Act Rules. In both these cases the rules are more voluminous than the Acts themselves, and in some of these Rules provisions have been made which probably could never have been contemplated by the pieces of legislation. In recent months we have the experience of the Defence of India Act Rules which run to more than two hundred sections whereas the Act itself has not got more than a dozen sections. In this manner we are gradually noticing increased power given to Government amounting to interference with the due course of law, in cases where injustice is likely to be done. That right or privilege of having a grievance enquired by Law Courts is also taken away from the public. On this particular occasion there was only one healthy check to the Government having certain rules by virtue of

which they could exempt individuals or organisations from the payment of tax at their sweet will. That healthy check is now being removed. I would like Government to explain what occasion had arisen, what was the real difficulty felt in framing these rules, and in submitting these rules to the scrutiny of the Legislature. Government had enough time over this simple piece of legislation and they could devise certainly some healthy set of rules for according exemptions to deserving persons from the payment of these taxes. Instead, Government want a blank charter and after the lapse of so many months they come to the Legislature with the proposal that they must be given full freedom to make such rules as they like, that is, to give exemptions to persons of their own choice. We have experience of how Government are making their choice in various fields, in the field of nomination of members to Committees, District Boards, Union Boards and the like. We have found that they have been more actuated by the sentiment of patronage than by real interests of the people at their heart. We are afraid that if these rule making powers are left in the hands of the present Government, they may similarly utilise the occasion to distribute their patronage for obliging persons whom they would like to patronise (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It is not for individuals but for classes.) And in devising such classes, surely the Hon'ble Finance Minister, who is also the Labour Minister, knows how new classes can be created and new organisations can be manufactured, like the Labour Welfare Organisations and Youth Welfare Committees and the like for distributing patronage when he chooses to do so. We oppose the motion as much on the ground of principle as on the ground of possible corruption that this privilege may lead to. I trust the House will be fully justified in pressing its own old position to stand.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, I rise just to enter an emphatic protest against the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy's attempt to misquote members of this House and mislead the House depending on his misquotation. Sir, he absolutely misinterpreted the attitude of this side of the House when he said that we opposed the amendment of the Council on its merits. We opposed the amendment of the Council only on constitutional grounds; otherwise the amendment of the Council was really a good amendment and deserved every support. That amendment ought to have been made by this House. If we could not persuade ourselves or this House to make such an amendment the Council was within its rights to do so and more so as it related to the rule making powers of the Government.

Sir, Mr. Suhrawardy only finds himself in difficulty in coming to question the merit of the amendment made by the Council and just to get rid of that difficulty he tickles the vanity of the members of this House. But we should not forget that it is to get the powers for the

Government, to deprive the House of its legitimate powers, that he has come forward to move this amending Bill. I think, this is the most undemocratic amendment that can be thought of in the present age.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, I oppose the motion of Mr. Suhrawardy on grounds other than those advanced by Dr. Sanyal and by Mr. Rai Chaudhuri. Sir, when the Bill as was passed by the Council came up before the Assembly for consideration it was I who alone amongst the Congress members opposed that amendment of the Council. I anticipated that Government would begin to realise this per capita tax to the injury of many persons, immediately after the Bill was passed. In order that some persons who deserved exemption might get exemption in time, I desired that the Government should have kept the power to frame rules for exemption themselves and not allowed time to pass without there being any rules. Government did not listen to that. Government accepted the amendment made by the Council to the effect that rules should be framed by the Government and approved by the Legislature. At that time I gave this warning that Government would not bring these rules before the Legislature, and the result would be that many persons deserving of exemption would not get exemption. The result I apprehended has come true. A few lakhs of rupees have been realised already as has presently been intimated to us by the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy at the time of presenting the Budget. But no exemption has been made and I know of many cases in which exemption would have been granted rightly if there were reasonable rules for exemption. May I ask the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy—why did not Government accept my amendment when I moved it during the last session? If Government did not think it right to do so, why did not Government frame rules and put them before the Legislature before they began to collect the *capita* taxes? They could frame rules and put them before the House last session, and could get those rules approved by the House. We all know that whatever rules might be framed by Government would be passed by the House because the majority of the members here are in favour of Government. Sir, I think Government did not do so ostensibly with the object of realising *per capita* tax from all persons made liable to pay the same, without giving exemption to those who deserved exemption.

But now, as Dr. Sanyal has pointed out, some interested persons who can claim the patronage of Government must have approached the Government for framing some rules hastily so that they may get the benefit of exemption, and that is why Government have come up with this Bill. I ask the members of this House who opposed my amendment during the last Budget Session—with what face they would support the Government to-night when Government have practically adopted the same amendment. If they had wisdom to vote down my amendment, they should be wise again to vote down this Bill.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the Bill.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Before I speak on the actual subject before the House, I should like to congratulate the honourable member for the municipalities of the Presidency Division for his progress——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. Is the honourable member entitled to speak on any other subject than the one before the House? He says that he is not speaking on this subject.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I could have answered him but as Mr. Speaker, Sir, you must answer all points of order, I shall not encroach upon the Speaker's rights. But I feel that the progress of the honourable and learned member, from what Mahatma Gandhi called the bifurcated garment to the national *dhoti* has, perhaps, reached the cerebral extremity also because in talking to-day he and gentlemen opposite seem to have lost all sense of proportion and judgment. This House knows, Sir, that I am an invincible opponent of the unmentionable place and, therefore, any interference with the rights of this House by that unmentionable place must be resented lock, stock and barrel. Principles of democracy and of rights and privileges of legislatures have been enunciated before us to-day, the sources of whose inspiration are hardly weekold. To build your case on these and to send by the board established and universally recognised principles of constitutionalism is something that I have not been able to understand. The other place shall not interfere with decisions that we take especially if they are on money Bills. I must oppose everything—good, bad or indifferent—because I am in the Opposition, is an attitude which I am afraid, will stultify the Opposition. Here is a question of a money Bill being amended by others. Government has come back to us to protect the rights of this House. I think it is very undemocratic of honourable members opposite to oppose the Hon'ble Minister in charge who is standing up for the rights and privileges of this House.

I find that even points of order have been raised on the language he has used. Sir, I hold that the words "tampering with" are parliamentary and the expression can be used for any House of Legislature if it goes beyond the limits that have been and should be put upon it. (Cries of "question, question!" by Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami.) The other place has tampered with the rights of this House to which we have the honour to belong and therefore this tampering with our rights and privileges must be brought to an end at once without a moment's delay. I hope members will not take any notice of the arguments presented by the gentlemen opposite because these arguments have no legs to stand upon. We are standing up for a definite accepted and

ancient principle of constitutionalism. Those who are opposed to it are showing signs neither of any den nentality nor sound constitutional practice.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I hope there will not be any need to move the amendments.

Mr. SPEAKER: The amendments will come afterwards.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Then I will move that the Bill be taken into consideration. Sir, all that I stated in my opening remarks was that the assurance that was given by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister on that occasion was between interpellations of Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri and Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas. I never suggested that they were in answer to any interpellations made by them, but, Sir, I am not at all wrong in my statement that the Opposition did start by objecting to any amendment of a Finance Bill by the Upper House (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Yes, on constitutional grounds) and therefore in vindication of these constitutional grounds and the rights of this House I should have thought that the Opposition would carry their objections to their logical conclusion.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURY: We are now dealing with the merit in connection with a new Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal did start by saying that in the case of a money Bill, the Bengal Legislative Assembly must have the last and final say in this connection and will not brook any interference with taxation proposals. This is exactly what has happened. There has been interference with the taxation proposals of this House and I merely ask you to take back——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Do Government accept that position?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Because Government has accepted, that is why they have come——.

(Interruption by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal.)

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I think I shall only request Dr. Sanyal to listen to my speeches.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy that the Bengal Finance (Amendment) Bill, 1940, be taken into consideration was then put to the House and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—96.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Haiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakeem, Mr.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid Mr. A. M.
Abdul Hamid, Shah, Maulvi.
Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi.
Abdul, Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdulla-al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqui, Mr.
Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Sahib Maulvi S.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi Md.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Ashrafali, Mr. M.
Awlad Hossain Khan, Maulvi.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Badrudduja, Mr. Syed.
Bell-Hart, Miss P. B.
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Mr. Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Edbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M.
Farhat Bano Khanum, Begum.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Gomes, Mr. S. A.
Griffiths, Mr. C.
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Hawkings, Mr. R. J.
Haywood, Mr. Rogers.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Hirtzel, Mr. H. A. F.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H.
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr.
Maguire, Mr. L. T.
Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mandal Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi.
Masud Ali Khan Panni, Maulvi.
Millar. Mr. C.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur.
Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Sahib Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sahabo Alum, Mr. Syed.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.
Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi.

NOES—47.

Abdul Jabber Pulwan, Mr. Md.
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Banerjee, Dr. Suresh Chandra.
Barma, Babu Pradhari.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhowmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Bose, Mr. Sarat Chandra.
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Babu Mahim Chandra.

Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Goswami, Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Manirozzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Ray, Choudhury, Mr. Birendra Kishore.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Kishori Pati.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Basanka Sekhar.
Sen, Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr. M.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar.

The Ayes being 96 and the Noes 47, the motion was carried.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Maiti, I am afraid, both your amendments Nos. 11 and 13 are, for special reasons, not in order. If a Bill contains many provisions, then the omission of one clause might not change the character of the Bill. But here in amendment No. 11 you want to omit clause 2. Therefore it has merely the effect of a negative vote. Similarly, in amendment No. 13 you want to make an amendment almost exactly in the same way; that does not arise.

Clause 1.

The question that clause 1 stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

The question that clause 2 stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Preamble.

The question that the Preamble stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I beg to move that the Bengal Finance (Amendment) Bill, 1940, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

It being 7-45 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Friday, the 16th February, 1940, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 16th February, 1940, at 4·45 p.m.

Present.

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 8 Hon'ble Ministers and 214 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Rise in prices of commodities due to war.

***13. Maulvi HAFIZUDDIN CHOWDHURY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department aware—

(*i*) that due to war the prices of all commodities for everyday use of ordinary life except agricultural produce and jute, have gone up abnormally; and

(*ii*) that a propaganda is set on foot by newspapers and people in trade to keep the prices of paddy and other food articles lower in comparison to the commodities the agriculturists have to buy?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, what steps does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take in the matter of maintaining the prices of all agricultural produce in proportion to the rise in other commodities necessary for everyday use of life?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE and LABOUR and FINANCE DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) (*i*) Yes. I am aware that the prices of most of the commodities for everyday use, including agricultural produce, have gone up in varying degrees, the rise in price being higher in the case of those commodities which are imported from abroad and which are required for the prosecution of war. The price of jute has also arisen considerably.

(*ii*) I am not aware of any such propaganda.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if he is aware that the District Magistrate of Bogra is trying to fix the maximum price of rice sold in the town?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am not aware of it, but if he has attempted to do so he was probably justified.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: With reference to the fact that the District Magistrate has fixed the maximum price of rice, is the Hon'ble Minister aware that this would cause hardships to the actual agriculturists?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, because the price of paddy is not controlled at all. If the District Magistrate has attempted to fix the price of rice, it must be in regard to the retail price of rice in order to see that the middlemen did not profiteer.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that this rise in prices is causing great hardships to the wage-earners and labourers? I expect a reply from him as Minister in charge of Labour in this connection.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am aware of the fact that the rise in prices has caused some hardship.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what steps he has taken to minimize the hardships of the wage-earners?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, this question hardly arises, but the hon'ble member knows that we have been taking steps and I believe that we have undoubtedly been successful to some extent.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether all the District Committees are functioning properly in the matter of the controlling of prices.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does this question arise?

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Yes Sir, it arises in this manner, namely, as to what steps Government have taken in the matter of controlling prices in the rural areas. (Prompted by Mr. Jogesh Chandra Gupta.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. J. C. Gupta has come to the rescue in the nick of time: (Laughter.) Next question.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Sir, I was on my legs to ask a supplementary question.

Mr. SPEAKER: But you are rather late in asking it.

Percentage of posts held by Muslims and other communities in certain collectorates.

***14. Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the Bakarganj, Faridpur, Dacca, Mymensingh, Tippera, Noakhali and Chittagong collectorates—

(*a*) the present number of posts—

(1) in the Upper Division, and

(2) in the Lower Division;

(*b*) the number of them held by—

(1) Muslims,

(2) Caste Hindus,

(3) Scheduled Castes,

(4) Indian Christians,

(5) Anglo-Indians, and

(6) other communities;

(*c*) the pay that is drawn at present by each of them;

(*d*) the number of Head Clerks, Superintendents, *Sheristadars* and *Nazirs* that are in these district offices, district by district; and

(*e*) how many of them are—

(1) Muslims,

(2) Caste Hindus,

(3) Scheduled Castes,

(4) Indian Christians,

(5) Anglo-Indians, and

(6) other communities?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy: Three statements furnishing the information are laid on the Library table.

Appointment made under Jute Registration Scheme in Bengal.

***15. Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the total number of—

(1) Chief Inspectors,

(2) Inspectors,

(3) Assistant Inspectors,

(4) Recorders, and

(5) Area Copyists,

appointed under the Jute Registration scheme;

(*ii*) how many of them are Muslims, to be shown separately, district by district;

(*iii*) the scale of salaries of each class of employees; and

(*iv*) the period for which they have been employed?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to extend the services of any of these classes of employees?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which of these classes of services will be extended.

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) (*i*) to (*iii*) The member is referred to the answer given to starred question No. 83 by Maulvi Md. Mozammel Huq on the 19th December, 1939.

(*iv*) Primary Recorders and Area Copyists have been appointed approximately for three months and others for an approximate period of four to five months.

(*b*) and (*c*) This depends on Government decision on questions which are still under consideration. I cannot give any definite answer at present.

Condition of river Bhairab in Jessore.

***16. Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Government have taken any notes of the condition of the Bhairab river during the floods of 1938; and

(*ii*) what is the reason for non-reopening of this water route?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to make a survey of the water-course of the Bhairab between Meherpur in the Nadia district and Singia in the Jessore district?

(*c*) Has any action been taken under the Water-Hyacinth Act to keep this course free from water-hyacinth?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) (*i*) Due note was taken of the conditions prevailing in the following reaches during the flood of 1938: (1) Uttampur-Meherpur-Subalpur, (2) Subalpur to Bejoy Cut (now absorbed by the Mathabhanga river), (3) Bejoy Cut to Tahirpur (Kabadak offtake), (4) Haybatpur to Singia.

(*ii*) I am afraid that I do not understand the question. If the hon'ble member is thinking of the possibility of making the river navigable, I have to say that no scheme is likely to be technically feasible. As regards improvement for the purpose of increasing the spill discharge the river is sufficiently wide in reaches 1 and 2, and needs no enlargement of section. The real trouble is that, owing to the deterioration of the offtake from the Ganges, very little spill supply can be brought down to reach (1). As only a limited spill can be drawn from the parent river, the Mathabhanga, for reaches (3) and (4) these do not require any enlargement under present conditions.

(*b*) A contour survey of the whole of the decadent area in Central Bengal is now in progress and on its completion it is proposed to draw up a comprehensive flushing scheme for this area. If technically feasible, improvement of the various reaches of the Bhairab will also be provided for in this comprehensive flushing scheme.

(*c*) I am informed that most of the weeds in the river lying within the Meherpur subdivision of the Nadia district were cleared by voluntary effort during the Water-Hyacinth Week and that it was not necessary to have recourse to the Water-Hyacinth Act. The weeds in the portion of the river lying within the Jessore district were cleared by the people after notices under the Act had been served, and no prosecution was necessary.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state why is it that he so readily answers questions relating to the rivers in the Presidency Division and makes an inordinate delay in answering questions relating to rivers in other divisions?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I may assure my friend that the delay is not intentional. The greater the distance the longer the time it takes to get out an answer after local enquiries. The paucity of staff is also responsible for the delay.

Abolishing the practice of granting sectional Muslim holidays.

***17. Maulvi MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department aware that the practice of sectional Muslim holidays is causing inconveniences and hardship both to the officers of the Government and the public?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) be in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of abolishing the practice of granting sectional Muslim holidays forthwith and allowing general holidays instead?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if Government are making enquiries to ascertain whether such holidays are causing inconvenience to both the officers and the public?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: We expect that if there is any grievance or inconvenience, the officers or the members of the public will inform Government of those inconveniences.

Mr. MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if he is aware that both the litigant Muhammadan public and Muhammadan pleaders and muktears are bound to attend courts and other functions on those sectional holidays and that only Government officers are allowed to enjoy these holidays?

Mr. SPEAKER: How are the Muhammadan litigant public bound to attend court as you say?

Mr. MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Bound in this sense that if the presiding judge or munsif happens to be a Hindu he holds the court on those days and the Muhammadan public concerned are bound to attend for otherwise their cases will be dismissed for default. That is why they have to attend if the judges happen to be Hindus, Christians or members of other communities.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am sorry, Sir, that this is the unfortunate experience of the honourable member, because I understand that in the case of sectional holidays if the presiding

officer happens to be a Hindu and the lawyer happens to be a Muslim, it is the invariable practice for him to adjourn the case. If, however, there should happen to be an instance where an officer has struck off a case it is almost invariably restored on an application being made. As I say it is unfortunate that the honourable member has had a different experience

Silting up of the mouth of khal Kachamatia in Mymensingh.

*18. **Mr. BIRENDRA KISHORE RAY CHAUDHURY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether he is aware—

(*i*) that the mouth of the *khal* Kachamatia (the junction of the Kachamatia and Brahmaputra) in the Sadar subdivision of the district of Mymensingh has silted up and remains closed during the greater portion of the year; and

(*ii*) that both cultivation and public health of that area have deteriorated?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps are in the contemplation of Government to make the *khal* navigable throughout the year?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) I have not been able to obtain statistics showing whether there has been any change in the area under cultivation or in the productivity of the soil I am informed that jute is grown abundantly in the bed of the *khal* and that *aus* paddy and *rabi* crops are grown in the *chars* As regards public health, I have no statistics, but it has been reported that there has been deterioration.

(*b*) It is proposed to make observations in the *khal* and its neighbourhood during the coming flood season with a view to working out a suitable scheme for improvement.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় অনুগ্রহ করে বোলবেন কি,—গত বৎসর যে সেচ বিভাগ ময়মনসিংহে স্থাপিত হ'য়েছে, তাঁরা এই কাচামাটিয়া খাল সম্বন্ধে কিছু করেছেন কি?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: As I have stated I think it will be the duty of that division to undertake to take the necessary observations.

Repairs of breaches in Chetua circuit embankment in the Ghatal subdivision, Midnapore.

***19. Mr. HARENDRA NATH DOLUI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to fill up the breaches caused by the recent flood, in Chetua circuit embankment in the subdivision of Ghatal in the district of Midnapore?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether he has received any petition from the inhabitants of the inundated area outside the said circuit objecting to the filling up of the breaches in the Chetua circuit embankment; and

(*ii*) whether the Government have considered the question that the maintenance of the said broken embankment is not in contravention of the Government's present policy which was enunciated by the Minister himself in this very House?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many acres of land lie within the circuit embankment; and

(*ii*) how many acres of the land have produced after the last flood—

(1) *aman* crops, and

(2) no crops?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) The question is now under my consideration. Meanwhile, orders have been issued for the partial closure of some of the breaches by means of dwarf *bunds* which will be strong enough to protect the area against the entrance of saline water during high tides.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes; and I have received another pressing for the repair of the breaches.

(*ii*) The general policy of Government is to prevent the construction of new embankments and to abandon old ones gradually without endangering human life or exposing crops to such extensive and recurring damage as would outweigh the advantages expected from abandonment. Whether the maintenance of the embankment referred to would be inconsistent with this policy, is part of the question now under my consideration.

(*c*) (*i*) 85 square miles.

(*ii*) I am endeavouring to obtain the information desired.

Total receipt from forests of Chittagong up to November, 1939.

***20. Khan Bahadur MD. ANWARUL AZIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state the actual receipt of Government for the year 1939-40 up to November, 1939, from the forest administration of the Chittagong forest district?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that certain parts of the Chittagong district were visited by a flood recently?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there has been any fall in the revenue receipts of this district for the year 1939-40?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINCH ROY: (*a*) Rs. 1,29,898.

(*b*) Yes

(*c*) There has been a fall of only Rs. 13 up to the end of November as compared with the corresponding figure of Forest Revenue of previous year. As regards Land Revenue there has been no fall.

Union Board nominations in the Tangail subdivision.

***21. Mr. SURENDRA MOHAN MAITRA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department aware:

(*i*) that the Union Board elections in the Tangail subdivision were held in January, 1939, and

(*ii*) that names of nominated members have not yet been gazetted?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for the delay in publishing the names?

MINISTER in charge of the LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The delay has been mainly due to the time taken in consultations between the District Magistrate and the Chairman of the District Board as regards adequate representation of all interests in the nominations to be made by the District Magistrate. The nominations are expected to be published in the immediate future.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the time taken by the District Magistrate and the Chairman of the District Board is not unusual and undesirable?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. Unusual, it may be; undesirable I do not understand.

Agricultural loans for certain places in Malda.

*22. **Maulvi IDRIS AHMED MIA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that about 2,000 *bighas* of lands in the Duba areas of Bamongola and Gajole thanas and about 5,000 *bighas beel* situated in the east of Shibganj thana and in the north of Nawabganj thana are lying fallow for want of paddy seeds?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government and Hon'ble Minister were requested to sanction an agricultural loan for the purchase of seeds?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of deputing a commission including the questioner to make an enquiry?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) and (*c*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the basis of his answer "no" to questions (*a*) and (*c*)?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: There is no damage, so the answer is "no".

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he himself has inquired about the subject-matter of question (*a*)?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Sir, through the usual channel.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state from whom did he get the information that so much land was not lying fallow?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The Collector of the district.

Communal proportion of tracers in Dacca Collectorate.

*23. **Mr. S. A. SALIM:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the present number of—

(i) Muslim;

(ii) Caste Hindu; and

(iii) Scheduled Castes,

tracers in the Collectorate of Dacca?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the appointments have been made in accordance with the percentage fixed by the Government of Bengal?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (a) There is only one tracer, a Caste Hindu, who was employed long ago.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Proportion of Muslim and Scheduled Caste District Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Schools in Bengal.

*24. **Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state the present number of—

(i) District Inspectors of Schools; and

(ii) Sub-Inspectors of Schools;

in Bengal?

(b) How many of the District Inspectors of Schools are—

(i) Muslims; and

(ii) Scheduled Castes?

(c) How many of the Sub-Inspectors are—

(i) Muslims; and

(ii) Scheduled Castes?

(d) How many Sub-Inspectors of Schools have been appointed between the 1st April, 1937, and 31st October, 1939.

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) (*i*) 27.

(*ii*) 267.

(*b*) (*i*) 17.

(*ii*) Nil.

(*c*) (*i*) 152.

(*ii*) 6.

(*d*) 39.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহাশয় দয়া কোরে বোলবেন কি, তিনি তাঁর উত্তরে (*d*) তে যে ৩৯ জনের কথা বোলেছেন, এই ৩৯ জনের মধ্যে Scheduled Castes ক'জন ?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise You have asked about the percentage of appointments

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: No, not about percentage, only about the number.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then I am sorry

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: প্রশ্নে তো সিডিউল্ড কাষ্ট সম্বন্ধেই জিজ্ঞাসা করা হোয়েছে ?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I must have notice I cannot say off-hand

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answers to which were laid on the table)

"Khaskhamar" system in the 24-Parganas.

14. Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that there is a feeling amongst the people of the 24-Parganas over the question of the *khaskhamar* system (i.e., forcible stacking by the zemindars of crops in their own farm-houses);

(*ii*) that large number of criminal cases arise out of the prevalence of this condition in the district; and

(*iii*) that the local authorities inquired into the matter?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any report has been received?

(*c*) If so, what action does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) It is reported that there is a long standing custom in 24-Parganas that *bhagdars* stack the paddy on *khaskhamars* (i.e., places appointed by the zemindars) so that a division can be made under the supervision of the zemindar's officers. The paddy is by custom reaped, stacked and threshed by the *bhagdars* themselves.

Some agitation has been made against the system alleging that the zemindar's officers force *bhagdars* to accept less than their share; but it does not appear that the system is generally regarded as unfair.

(*ii*) No.

(*iii*) Incidental enquiries were made in the course of an enquiry into the agrarian situation.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) So long as the *bhag* system continues some form or other of *khaskhamar* will be necessary. So no action save in restraint of abuses is possible.

Problem of female education in Chittagong.

15. Mr. MAHIM CHANDRA DAS: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Government are aware of the difficulty of meeting the increasing demand for female education in college in the district of Chittagong,

(*ii*) what was the number of matriculated girls in Chittagong Centre during the last three years; and

(*iii*) whether the system of co-education in colleges has the approval of Government?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that no girls could be admitted last year in the Local Government College for want of accommodation?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what scheme the Government contemplate for imparting separate college education to girls?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of raising the status of the local high school (Dr. Khastagir's) for girls to that of a second grade Arts College?

(*e*) Has the Governing Body of the Chittagong College ever moved the Government in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Figures are not available, but it is understood that about 100 girls appeared at the examination in 1939.

(*iii*) Government does not regard the system of co-education as ideal, but approves of it where better facilities do not exist, provided that adequate arrangements are made for the care of girl students.

(*b*) During 1939-40 no girl student could be admitted to the first year, second year or fourth year classes of the Chittagong College and only five girls were admitted to the third year class.

(*c*) The outline of a scheme for the development of Women's Education at Chittagong which includes a ladies' college is under the consideration of Government.

(*d*) Yes; along with the scheme referred to in the answer to (*c*) above.

(*e*) No. Some years ago a proposal was submitted by the Commissioner, Chittagong Division; but it had to be dropped owing to certain technical difficulties.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (*c*) whether this scheme includes the proposed female training school?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I cannot say. There was a proposal but I do not know if this scheme includes that I can look into the question

Settlement of old mal jotes in the Western Duars khas mahal, Jalpaiguri.

16. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*a*) that in the Western Duars Government *khas mahal*, district Jalpaiguri, old *mal jotes* when resumed or purchased by the Government are settled with the *chukanidars* under those *jotes* in *Ar.* form lease, *i.e.*, in the lease form contemplated for waste lands settlement although most of these *chukanidars* were holding their lands since the annexations of the Duars; and

(*b*) that the portions of the *chukani* holdings which has been let out to *dar-chukanidars* are being directly settled by the Government with the *dar-chukanidars* without resumption or without paying any compensation to the *chukanidars*?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Old *mal jotes* resumed or purchased by Government are settled with the existing *chukanidars*, provided they are cultivating tenants, in *Ar.* form lease, which is the only prescribed form for settlement of reclaimed *khas* lands in the locality.

(*b*) When it is found that in a resumed or purchased *jote* some lands of *chukanidars* are in actual possession of *dar-chukanidars* those lands are settled with the latter in *Ar.* form lease as under the terms of their leases the *chukanidars* are not entitled to sublet and to claim any compensation for determination of their leases on account of breach of any of the conditions thereof.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether *mal jotes* are waste lands from the time long before the annexation of Western Duars by the British Government?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes. Some of the *mal jotes* include waste lands that existed before the annexation.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the *mal jotes* are treated as waste lands?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Not all of them are treated as waste lands; only those which are actually waste lands are treated so.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is arable land a waste land?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It is called arable waste land.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why *mal jote* lands which were culturable lands before are treated now as waste lands?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a term of nomenclature, I suppose.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Sir.

Civil suits instituted by Government for realisation of rents in Chittagong.

17. Khan Bahadur MD. ANWARUL AZIM: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state the number of civil suits filed by Government in the district of Chittagong for realising their dues from tenants instead of filing a certificate case for the year ending *Chaitra* or 1345 B.S.?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: 156.

Burdwan-Hooghly-Howrah Flushing Scheme.

18. Maulvi ABUL QUASEM: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(*i*) that a public meeting was held at Chinsura on the 24th June, 1939, in which the desirability of the introduction of the Burdwan-Hooghly-Howrah Flushing Scheme at an early date was discussed;

(*ii*) that resolutions were passed asking the Government to expedite the matter;

(*iii*) that a deputation of representative men of the districts of Hooghly, Howrah and Burdwan waited on the Hon'ble Ministers in charge of Revenue and Communications and Works after Chinsura meeting to press upon them the necessity of expediting the carrying out of the scheme into execution;

(*iv*) that there exists a feeling amongst the people of the districts of Hooghly and Howrah over the question of the early introduction of the scheme, and

(*v*) that the recent floods in the districts of Hooghly and Howrah have made the position worse?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government have taken in this matter?

(*c*) Do the Government contemplate amendment of the Bengal Development Act, XVI of 1935, for the purpose?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A scheme has already been prepared and is now under the examination of Government.

(*c*) The question whether any amendment is necessary will be examined.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when this scheme is likely to be put into operation?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I am expecting to place this matter before the Assembly in the July session in accordance with the Bengal Development Act.

Service ratio in Chittagong Court of Wards' Estates.

19. Moulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware that the Wards' Estates in the district of Chittagong are divided into two groups as North and South Groups?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the present time the following particulars in respect of each of the North and South groups of the Chittagong Court of Wards (to be shown separately):—

(*i*) the number of—

(1) General Manager,

(2) Assistant Manager,

(3) Inspector,

(4) Head clerks,

(5) Clerks, excluding head clerks,

(6) Typists,

(7) Paid probationers,

(8) Unpaid probationers,

(9) *Tahsil muharrirs*,

(10) *Tahsil muharrir* assistants,

(11) *Amins*,

(12) Suit clerks,

(13) Wards' pleaders,

(14) Wards' *muktears*,

(15) *Ammuktears* or attorneys-in-power,

(16) Office peons,

(17) Chaprasis,

(18) Orderlies,

(19) *Tahsil* peons, and

(20) *Amin's* peons; and

(*ii*) the number of—

(1) Hindus,

(2) Muslims, and

(3) Buddhists

amongst each group?

(*c*) Has the service ratio as recently arrived at by the Government been introduced in the Chittagong Court of Wards?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*e*) How many appointments under the various heads as enumerated in (*b*) have been made during the last five years after the transfer of Mr. K. G. Morshed, I.C.S., the then Additional District Magistrate of Chittagong?

(*f*) How many of the persons appointed are Muslims?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Whether the communal ratio in the public services should apply to posts not paid for out of the provincial revenues is under the consideration of the Government.

(*e*) Fifty-three in the South Group and eight in the North Group.

(*f*) Twenty-two.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (b) of unstarred question No. 19.

(*i*)

		South Group.	North Group.
1.	General Manager ..	1	1
2.	Assistant Manager ..	1	Nil
3.	Inspector ..	1	1
4.	Head clerk ..	1	1
5.	Clerks, excluding head clerks ..	13	11
6.	Typist ..	1	1
7.	Paid probationers ..	Nil	Nil
8.	Unpaid probationers ..	Nil	Nil
9.	*Tahsil muharrirs* ..	29	14
10.	*Tahsil muharrir*-assistants ..	1	2
11.	*Amins* ..	1 (temporary).	1

(i)		South Group.	North Group.
12.	Suit clerks ..	11	9
13.	Wards' pleaders ..	15*	14*
14.	Wards' *muktears* ..	Nil	Nil
15.	*Ammukteers* or attorneys-in-power ..	Nil	Nil
16.	Office peons ..	5	4
17.	Chaprasis ..	Nil	Nil
18.	Orderlies ..	3	2
19.	*Tahsil* peons ..	51	16
20.	*Amin's* peons ..	Nil	Nil
(ii)			
1.	Hindus ..	93	66
2.	Muslims ..	38	10
3.	Buddhists ..	2	1

(Besides this there is one Christian in the South Group.)

Consequences of suspension of enhancement of rent and abolition of transfer fees.

20. Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department been drawn—

(*i*) to losses incurred by the landlords from suspension of enhancement of rent and abolition of transfer fees under the Bengal Tenancy Act as amended up to date; and

(*ii*) to hardship on the settlement-holders of the Sunderban estates caused by enhancement of land revenue by even 50 per cent.?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what step he proposes to take for the suspension of the enhancement of land revenue of the said Sundarban estates?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No case of hardship calling for such action has been made out with regard to these estates.

Realization of agricultural loans in certain villages in Kurigram subdivision, Rangpur.

21. Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether the villagers of Helodanga in police-station Bhurungamari, Kurigram subdivision, have submitted an application to the Subdivisional Officer,

*Of the 29 pleaders 11 are common to both the groups.

Kurigram, on the 20th October, 1939, praying for the extension of the kists of agricultural loan given to them during the last flood time?

(*b*) If so, what action, if any, has been taken in the matter?

(*c*) If no action has been taken on it as yet, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of extending the *kists*?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that due to late sowing and early flood and by reason of unfavourable weather condition, the jute crop of village Helodanga has been destroyed; and

(*ii*) that the condition of the people there has been worse than before?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) No such application was received by the Subdivisional Officer, Kurigram.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

(*d*) The last jute crop was partially damaged by unfavourable weather conditions but as the cultivators have got better price for jute this year than before their condition has comparatively improved. The prospects of *aman* paddy are favourable.

Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to let us know the extent of the damage done to the jute crop referred to in answer (*b*)?

The Hon'ble SIR BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I ask for notice.

Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have definite information that the cultivators of Helodanga got better price for their jute?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: They certainly got a better price. That is our information But whether there was any variation between one village and another we do not know.

Imposition of conditions on death anniversary meeting of the late Deshpran Birendra Nath Sasmal.

22. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Political) Department be pleased to state whether conditions, if any, were imposed on the organisers of the last death anniversary meeting of the late Deshpran Birendra Nath Sasmal at Contai in Midnapore?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were those conditions and reasons for their imposition?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The conditions were as follows:—

"(1) That they will not have any public demonstrations carrying revolutionary placards and shouting revolutionary slogans.

(2) That in the meetings held in this connection there will be no anti-Government propaganda direct or indirect.

(3) That three or four influential members of the Committee apart from the Secretary would make themselves responsible for the proper conduct of these celebrations."

These conditions were imposed in order that advantage might not be taken of the occasion for the commission of prejudicial acts under the Defence of India Rules.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether by anti-Government propaganda he also means anti-ministerial propaganda?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: The language was very vague.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: With reference to answer (3), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who those three or four influential gentlemen were and whether it is a fact that they were averse to give that undertaking?

Mr. SPEAKER: You have put two questions. You can ask only one at a time.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the three or four influential gentlemen who were asked to give that undertaking?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that these three or four gentlemen were coerced to give their undertaking against their wish?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: There can be no question about coercion. They were free to give their undertaking or not.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Are these conditions now-a-days imposed on every meeting that is held in the province?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The only reply is—is that the information of the honourable member that it is done so? Has the honourable member found that this is done in every meeting?

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under which provision of the Defence of India Rules Government is authorised to take undertakings from three or four influential gentlemen?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The giving of permission is in the discretion of the District Magistrate and if he is satisfied that this condition will enable him to give the permission, naturally he has got the right of taking that undertaking.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, my question has not been answered. I beg to submit that there is a definite statement by the Hon'ble Minister that it was taken in order that "advantage might not be taken of the occasion for the commission of prejudicial acts under the Defence of India Rules" My question was definite. It was under which provision of the Defence of India Rules Government was authorised to bind three or four gentlemen to give that undertaking?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has given the explanation.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that as a result of the conditions being imposed, no anniversary meeting was held?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I am not aware of it.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Please let us know what slogans are considered to be revolutionary?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I will have to cite a large number of slogans which are revolutionary, e.g., "Down with the British Government" is a revolutionary slogan.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Are not the Defence of India Rules sufficient to prevent commission of prejudicial acts?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Non-enforcement of India Government Rules regarding classification of prisoners.

23. Mr. B. MUKHURJI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department aware of the rules framed by the Government of India, and published at New Delhi in an official communique on the 19th February, 1939, with regard to the classification of prisoners?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, do the Government contemplate introduction of the said rules in Bengal?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that the prisoners when claiming to be classified in higher classes are inquired of in Bengal whether or not they pay any income-tax, or at least whether or not they draw a good monthly income; and

(*ii*) that such inquiries are not required in the Government of India rules?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) This has already been done.

(*c*) (*i*) Information is required as to income of the prisoner or his father or guardian.

(*ii*) Yes.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why difference is made between rules that are framed by the Government of India and those made by the Government of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I do not think there is any difference between the two rules.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*c*) (*i*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he suggests that a prisoner however enlightened or cultured he may be is not entitled to the amenities of the higher class simply because he had not a standard income laid down by the Government?

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise here. That is a matter of argument. He has given an answer and whether that is right or wrong is a different matter.

Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for classifying the Daspur prisoners as B Division prisoners?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Imposition and realisation of education cess in Jalpaiguri district.

24. Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the date on and from which the Primary Education Cess has been imposed in the Jalpaiguri district;

(*ii*) the date when that order has been communicated to the Deputy Commissioner; and

(*iii*) the date when the assessment of the cess was actually completed?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that interest is being charged on arrear of cess which fell due in September *kist* of this year?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister also aware—

(*i*) that the opinions of the Union Boards were sought for before the introduction of this cess;

(*ii*) that when in the last meeting of the Union Board Presidents of the district the question of levying of this cess was raised, the consensus of opinion expressed was against the proposal; and

(*iii*) that in their meetings held on the 7th September, 1939, the District Board by a majority only two out of twenty members dissenting, and the District Schools Board unanimously passed resolutions recommending postponement of the realisation of the education cess for two years?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) (*iii*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of postponing the realisation of this cess for at least two years?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) 1st Baisakh, 1346 B.S. (15th April, 1939).

(*ii*) 9th May, 1939.

(*iii*) The demand notices under section 31 of Bengal Act VII of 1930 were served on all proprietors of estates by the end of July, 1939.

(*b*) Interest is being charged on arrears of cess for the *kist* ending 28th September, 1939.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.

Military College in Bengal.

25. Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Prime Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(*i*) that there is no facility for military training in any college within the Province of Bengal; and

(*ii*) that there is a demand of such a college in the Province?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of starting a Military Training College in the Province in near future?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The member is referred to the reply given to a similar starred question No 102, by Maulvi Serajul Islam, on the 19th December, 1939.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government of Bengal would require the sanction of the Government of India for starting a Military Training College in Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The question of military training is essentially a Central subject and in matters of detail, at any rate, the concurrence of the Central Government is necessary.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Provincial Government propose to move the Government of India to get their concurrence and to give necessary facilities for establishing a Military Training College in Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: There is no proposal of that kind at the present moment.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Sir, this question (No. 25) was sent for answer in the last session and the answer has been given in the present session!

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes; that is so.

Scheduled Caste candidates in the panel for educational services.

26. Mr. DHANANJOY ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether the Government maintain any panel of candidates for educational services in Bengal?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of the candidates are from the Scheduled Castes?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) The Director of Public Instruction maintains a panel of candidates approved for appointment as English teachers and Sub-Inspectors of Schools.

(*b*) Four.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দয়া কোরে বোল্‌বেন কি এই যে প্রার্থীদের তালিকা, সেই তালিকায় যাদের নাম থাকে তার ভিতর থেকেই কি কর্ম্মচারী নিযুক্ত হয়, না বাইরে থেকে নিযুক্ত হয়?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Appointments are made from out of the list of the panel.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: এখানে উত্তর (*c*) (*a*) তে যে ছয় জনের কথা বলা হয়েছে, মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দয়া কোরে বোল্‌বেন কি এই ছয় জন সিভিউল্ড্ কাষ্টকে কতদিনের মধ্যে কাজে নিযুক্ত করা হয়েছে?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That depends on vacancies, I cannot say.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: হবে কিনা আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি নাই, হোয়েছে কিনা আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করেছি।

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: May have been, I do not know.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the service's ratio is observed by the authorities in making appointments?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is too general a question, so it does not arise.

Mr. MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Sir, I submit that it does arise as there are still four persons——

Mr. SPEAKER: I quite understand your point, but I am afraid that to answer that question it will be necessary to answer to the question as to how the panel is constituted.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the panel is open to revision every year?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not know, but I think it is periodically examined and some changes are made.

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Sir, I gave notice of an adjournment motion and you have kindly given your consent.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Sir, I gave my notice earlier so I think my motion should be taken up first, though Mr. Mazumdar stood up first.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have no control over anybody's legs. After all Mr. Dutta Mazumdar is a younger man still ! (Laughter.)

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Sir, I beg to move that the business of this House——

Mr. SPEAKER: One moment Mr. Dutta Mazumdar. I want to be satisfied on one point, that is, have you got any other instance besides what you have mentioned?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Sir, I have mentioned two names and several other persons on whom orders were served on the 14th instant.

Mr. SPEAKER: How long has it been going on—I mean if it is a repressive policy, has this policy been recently started?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Sir, this policy has been recently started and is still continuing and it is coming in different ways; the incidents on the 14th instant have absolutely burst upon the citizens of Calcutta as a surprise. All of a sudden a huge wave of repression has started which is still continuing. I have mentioned the date of occurrence in the body of the resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: My difficulty is this: here there are certain cases mentioned, namely, cases of Mozaffar Ahmed, Somenath Lahiri and several other persons and you say that they have been under externment under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Over 12 orders were passed on the same day. The men served with these orders have been externed summarily from Calcutta, Howrah, Hooghly, Asansol subdivision of the Burdwan district and 24-Parganas, and ordered to leave their places of residence within 24 hours.

Mr. SPEAKER: What evidence have you got to show that?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Sir, I possess here a sample copy of the large number of orders which have been served. It is under the seal of the Government of Bengal signed by the Secretary to the Government of Bengal and also the Commissioner of Police.

(The sample copy was submitted to the Hon'ble Speaker.)

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: The facts I have stated and the copy I am showing you will reveal the amazing and extraordinary nature of these orders.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, on a point of order. I feel, Sir, that it is only fair to Mr. Banerjee that he should have precedence over this. Sir, you have ruled that any motion that is given notice of after 11 will not be taken up that day. Therefore, it is only fair that the person who has given notice after 11 before 3 of that day should have precedence over one that comes to-day. From the Government point of view the reason is that we have previous notice of that one and we are in a position to take it up. This one might have been sent, but I have not seen the notice of the motion yet.

Mr. SHIBNATH BANEAJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the Hon'ble Minister, but I do not want to claim precedence, and if Mr. Mazumdar's motion is ruled out, I shall take my chance.

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as the notice is concerned, it was received yesterday evening at 5-30. Therefore, Mr. Mazumdar gave it before 12 o'clock to-day. This notice was sent in the usual course to the department, but I do not know if thereafter there was another motion given notice of yesterday. My difficulty is, suppose Mr. Banerjee had not stood up at all—

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: In that case, Sir, naturally you would take the other one.

Mr. SPEAKER: But I did not notice Mr. Banerjee standing up at all. He jumped up all of a sudden.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: I did stand up, but I chose to sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Mazumdar, have you got anything further to say?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Is there any points, Sir, on which you have doubts, and you would like me to elaborate?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid your motion is not in order on the ground that you have combined two definite issues, namely, one is a question of restraint, and another is a question of externment.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Sir, orders have been served, which are restraint and externment orders at the same time. If persons are restrained from residing at their ordinary places of residence and carrying on their normal activities, it is undoubtedly an externment order with severe restraints and restrictions attached to it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would be prepared to consider the case so far as repressive policy is concerned. But you know "repressive policy" is too general a term and there have been several instances in the Central Legislature where merely by saying repressive policy, it has not been found in order as a single issue. Therefore, I will have to try and find out whether you are taking a common basis for a specific issue.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Sir, here it is a definite matter, namely, orders of externment and restraint.

Mr. SPEAKER: Two definite matters.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: The same order resulting in both these effects, namely, restraint and externment which amount to repression on the persons on whom these orders have been served. It also raises a very important point of principle regarding the question of the use of the powers under the Defence Ordinances. I submit, Sir, if any injury has got more than one adverse effect on the aggrieved person, it cannot be looked at as if definiteness were lacking, several matters were involved, and therefore it could be ruled out. I submit, Sir, that these orders are a definite matter, and have resulted in several effects on the persons concerned, which are tantamount to repression of a very severe type. As a consequence of one definite matter repression has resulted not in one but in several respects.

The men have been ordered in the first place not to reside in their ordinary places of residence; this is a restraint order in effect. They have been ordered not to enter certain areas; here it is in effect an externment order. Moreover, there has been no provision whatsoever made for the expenses or other means for these men to leave their places or for their living elsewhere. Here, Sir, it is a sort of economic blockade and penalizing them without any rhyme or reason; so that, Sir, you find that not only one but several effects have resulted from these orders leading on to repression over these persons. I, therefore, submit that is a very definite matter; this matter is of recent occurrence and arises out of a particular order which has resulted in all these effects, and as such, Sir, it satisfies all the points on which an adjournment motion could be brought before this House. I submit on these considerations, you will be pleased to rule that this motion is perfectly in order, and one which deserves the attention of this House, because, very grave matters of principle and the policy of Government are involved. Sir, you have made a practice often of asking on such occasions as to what point of principle is involved. Here, Sir, beyond satisfying all the points for an adjournment motion, it also raises very grave issues in principle which deserve the attention of this House, and as such you will be pleased to admit my motion

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I put in one word in this connection?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I cannot allow any debate on this.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is a point of order, Sir, that is why I want to draw your attention.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is better that I hear Mr. Sibnath Banerjee first.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I take it, Sir, that I shall have a hearing before you give your ruling?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Sir, I entirely agree with my friend who has just now sat, but in the wording of my adjournment motion that difficulty does not arise. I have definitely said order of externment. I have not added the word "restraint", though inevitably the result has been restraint. I have only stated order of externment; so the technical ground on which objection has been raised does not stand in my case. Therefore, I hope you will hold that it is in order.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I have the copy of the notice?

(The copy was submitted to the Hon'ble Speaker.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Your instruction is that orders were passed on the 14th.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Orders were passed on the 12th but were served on the 14th. That is all with which we are concerned.

Mr. SPEAKER: Sir Nazimuddin, have you got anything to say on this point?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I submit, Sir, there is no justification for stating that there has been a repressive policy of the Government of Bengal——

Mr. SPEAKER: Forget that for the time being. But what have you got to say with regard to Mr. Banerjee's point?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, as far as Mr. Banerjee is concerned, I again maintain that the mere fact that certain orders have been passed on a number of persons does not entitle an adjournment motion. For any action taken according to law, unless there is something that is out of the ordinary,—there is no justification for an adjournment motion. If a number of actions on these lines had been taken, then, Sir, there would be something. When it is taken in a number of cases, then it can be made out that there is a case.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope, you are not supplying arguments for the other side. (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, the mere fact that order has been passed on a number of persons does not show that there is anything out of the ordinary. It can be discussed later on when the budget discussion commences.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, you wanted to give me an opportunity to speak——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. This is a fight which in future I will not allow because otherwise it will lengthen the process. I am quite prepared to hear from any of the leaders of the parties other than members. I hope, Dr. Sanyal, you will realise the position.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I hope you will allow some advocates to argue on this point. (Laughter.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, it is contempt of court to practise without being a lawyer. (Laughter.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I only wanted to draw attention to the actual section of the rule referred to in the Statement of Objects and Reasons in Mr. Niharendu Dutta Majumdar's notice. It relates to section 26 (2) which is a comprehensive section empowering Government as much to extern some one as to restrain others. It is one issue—the issue of that order by virtue of that particular section of the rules. That is why although there may be——

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the point which Mr. Dutta Majumdar has argued. Do you mean to say that without being a barrister you will argue it better? (Laughter.) At least you can take it from me that that is an important point. But unfortunately I do not agree with Mr. Dutta Majumdar as to his motion being in order. It is termed in such a general way that it cannot be taken as a specific matter. Repressive policy is something more than mere externment. I do not know, so far as the facts are concerned, into what a debate on the repressive policy might develop. Therefore by allowing a debate on an adjournment motion on the repressive policy it is not desirable for me to open out a flood-gate of questions which might mean anything. It might mean restrictions under the Defence of India Act and every other Act which Government might have enacted or intend to enact. Therefore I hold that this motion is not in order.

As regards Mr. Sibnath Banerjee, I take it that Mr. Banerjee's point is that these orders were passed on 12 persons at a time, and that it is a matter of urgent public importance in view of the fact that the orders were passed by virtue of the authority given to Government by the same law. I hold this motion is in order. I will now read the statement before the House: "The Government of Bengal in exercise of the power conferred by sub-rule (2) of rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules, read with clause (c) of sub-rule (7) of that rule served orders on 14th February, 1940, on 12 Congress and Trade Union and Peasant Leaders to leave Calcutta, Howrah, Hooghly, 24-Parganas and Asansol subdivision of Burdwan district within 24 hours. This order is a serious encroachment on civil liberties of citizens and political workers and is causing great hardship to the persons concerned and also to the public in general and workers and peasants in particular".

This motion being in order I have now to ask if there is any objection to its being taken as an adjournment motion.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I object, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: If objection is taken, I shall ask those members who are in support of the motion to rise in their seats.

(Some members rose in their seats and on a count being taken it was found that more than the requisite number had risen.)

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: May I submit one thing, Sir, before you fix a time? I just want to point out that on a previous occasion it was stressed by the Opposition that on a particular day which was a non-official day, they did not like to take up an adjournment motion and did not like to utilise that particular non-official day for the discussion of an adjournment motion. Now, if this adjournment motion is taken up to-day which is a non-official day, the Opposition should in future be debarred from putting forward their old argument that adjournment motion should not be taken up on a non-official day.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the Parliamentary Secretary is technically correct. But we have since changed the rules. Formerly the power of fixing non-official days rested with the Government and during a whole session we could not get more than one or two non-official days. But now we have got once a week. So the argument of Mr. Shahabuddin falls to the ground. In any case an adjournment motion ordinarily should be taken up on the very day, but in exceptional cases the Speaker can exercise his discretion, but before doing so he must look to the convenience of both sides. In future the policy I am going to adopt is this. It is quite possible that I may think it not desirable to fix the same day for the adjournment motion but another day, and I think it will be ultimately inconvenient to both sides if I do not exercise that discretion. Subject to my keeping control over the question, the normal procedure for fixing a date should be that the parties should try to come to an agreement on the point, and if they do so I will have no objection.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: May I submit, Sir, that I do not want to raise any objection? I just want to point this out so that it may be on record that those who always claim to be anxious that no encroachment should be made on non-official days are to-day themselves encroaching upon non-official day.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I submit, Sir, that the Parliamentary Secretary would be well advised to advise the Minister concerned——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. That is all irrelevant. I fix 6-20 p.m., that is, after the prayer interval, as the time for taking up the adjournment motion.

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, I gave notice of a motion——

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the proceedings commence, I am afraid I have to refer to two matters which are of a very unpleasant nature—one particularly unpleasant and the other equally so. Yesterday my attention was drawn to a statement which was issued by a member of the House, Khan Bahadur Hashem Ali. He sent a statement to the press about the minimum price of jute. I have nothing to say about the contents, but there is one thing in the statement which is not in consonance with parliamentary procedure wherein he has said that he will move an adjournment motion in the Bengal Legislative Assembly on the 15th February, that is, on the day of the first meeting of the House, about the fixing of minimum price of jute. I will give this direction to every one that it is not in consonance with parliamentary practice for anybody to give information to the press that he will move a certain thing on a certain day when it does not lie with him at all to admit such a motion. It is after the admission of a motion that such statement as he wishes to make can be made, but I had hoped that there would not be even a statement of that nature because parliamentary convention requires that these facts should be kept within the House as far as possible. I am not sure if these facts are known to the members but I give this warning to Khan Bahadur Hashem Ali Khan that by this statement he has done an injustice to this House.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Shall I be in order to say, Sir, in this connection that I intend to give notice of an adjournment motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not prepared to answer a hypothetical question. So far as this is concerned I would say that the adjournment motion would not be in order and Mr. Basu, an astute lawyer as he is, knows perfectly well what the answer would be.

The second case* that I want to mention is of a very serious nature and I would certainly draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Leader of the House to the facts of the case. For the time being I will not mention the name because it is not desirable that in a matter like this I should disgrace him before the House, but I am referring to the fact that a member of his party gave notice of a certain resolution. That resolution was printed in a private press, and it wanted a certain committee to be appointed consisting of a suitable number of persons. Now the House will realise that this resolution

*The member concerned subsequently sent a letter to Mr. Speaker expressing his regret and offering apology. Mr. Speaker, therefore, treated the matter as closed.

is absolutely vague in its terms and as such can never be admitted in any House. So that motion of the resolution was naturally disallowed. That member of his party then goes and writes this letter, which I wish to read publicly in order to bring home to him the unparliamentary nature of his own conduct. "It has been my experience"; he writes "that questions and resolutions sent by me which might put the Government to some inconvenience"—and this proceeds from a member of his own party, mind you—"are as a rule disallowed in a summary manner without assigning any reason! As a member of the Legislature I feel a strong sense of injustice done to me that during the last session questions disallowed in the Assembly were allowed cent. per cent. in the Upper House, by the President, who owes no allegiance to the party in power." Well, the implication is bad enough. Whether the President should allow a certain resolution or a motion or not, is his function and is none of my concern, and I would be the last person to be dictated by any principle which may be followed in any place outside this House itself. I am here to protect and vindicate the rights of this House and build up a convention. If a convention which is not in accordance with the principles which I hold dear and desirable are accepted elsewhere, it is not my fault. If the member thinks that he is not satisfied it is for him to bring this matter up by tabling a suitable motion in this House. I have carefully enquired into the matter. He gave notice of 3 questions—one was allowed and another question covers 5 typewritten pages and is more of an indictment paper than a question. Any member ought to know before he writes letters of this nature that when he goes to the length of giving notice of a question which runs into 5 typewritten pages, it goes to a length which is not admissible under the rules.

And secondly, it is more or less in the nature of a cross-examination of the conduct of the Government of Bengal and the Government of India and several commercial concerns. Well, that is No. 1, and the House will see that if I have to allow such a question I should have to open the question to a length that I am debarred from doing under the rules.

Now, I come to No. 2. This is a matter in which a Government officer applied for the grant of a gun licence. I will not mention his name, nor the district, but the question was "Is it a fact that Mr. so and so and Mr. so and so did apply separately to the District Magistrate for a gun licence, whether any police enquiry was made in one case and not in the other and whether the gun licence was granted one for British India as a whole and another for Bengal only. If the Legislature is to enquire into the exercise of a right which is vested in the District Magistrate by Statute, by means of a question like this, then I am afraid that it is a matter which is not in order. In any case even if I accept for the time being that the contention of the member

may be perfectly right, yet the remedy lies elsewhere. May I therefore draw the attention of the Leader of the House to this statement and let him know that unless I am told by Monday what steps he proposes to take in the matter, then I am afraid I shall have to refer it to the Committee of Privileges.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, so far as I am concerned, I have not the slightest idea or knowledge of what has taken place——

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, I will send you the papers.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The statement you have made, Sir, makes it perfectly clear that that member is not amenable to discipline. He has attacked everybody and therefore it is rather doubtful whether he is a loyal member of the party to which I belong. Now, Sir, I do not want to say anything at the present moment, but I may tell you that I do not know who the member is.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, this side of the House is in complete accord with the sentiments expressed by you in your observations and I am sure that members of the Congress Party and those who are working with them will never be nor have they ever been guilty of such conduct which you have revealed before this House.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: To the latter portion of the sentence I object, because it is a reflection on the other parties. What I want to make clear is this that there may be bad sheep in every flock. You may not have such men to-day but you may have some such body to-morrow in your ranks.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I am only stating a historical fact.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: This is not a historical fact.

Messages from the Council.

The Secretary then read the following messages received from the Bengal Legislative Council, namely:—

(1) That the Bengal Agricultural Debtors (Amendment) Bill, 1939, was passed by the Bengal Legislative Council with amendments at its meeting held on the 19th January, 1940, and that the concurrence of the Assembly be asked to the

amendments made in the Bill by the Council. (The Bill showing the amendments *in loco* has been placed on the table.)

(2) That the Bengal Money-lenders Bill, 1939, was passed by the Bengal Legislative Council with amendments at its meeting held on the 19th January, 1940, and that the concurrence of the Assembly be asked to the amendments made in the Bill by the Council.

(The Bill showing the amendments *in loco* has been placed on the table).

NON-OFFICIAL BILL.

The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1939.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, I beg to move that the Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1937, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of:—

(1) The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca,

(2) Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad,

(3) Mr. K. Nooruddin,

(4) Mr. Anukul Chandra Das,

(5) Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy,

(6) Mr. Shyama Prasad Barman,

(7) Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal,

(8) Mr. Niharendu Dutta Mazumdar,

(9) Mr. G. Morgan,

(10) Maharaja Sashi Kanta Acharyya Choudhury of Muktagacha, Mymensingh, and

(11) the mover,

with instructions to submit their report by the 7th March, 1940, and that the quorum of the Select Committee be fixed at five.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in moving this motion I shall start with a short history of the very small measure that I propose to refer to the Select Committee. This Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill which I invite the House to adopt aims at the amendment of only one section, namely section 18, of the Bengal Municipal Act. It is not a comprehensive measure for the amendment of the Bengal Municipal Act. Its purpose is simply to remove an age old grievance

of the original inhabitants of some riparian municipalities in the industrial areas of Bengal. Sir, the Bill was introduced so far back as in September, 1937. In October, 1937, I believe, it was published in the *Calcutta Gazette*. Since then it was before the public but I had no opportunity to move for the second reading of the Bill till 1939. I moved for the second reading of the Bill, viz., for the consideration of the Bill, on the 23rd March, 1939, i.e., about one and a half year after the introduction of the Bill I had an opportunity to move for the consideration of the Bill. At that time, Sir, a member from the Government party moved for the circulation of the Bill for eliciting public opinion thereon by the 31st December, 1939. The Bill was thus effectively kept out of this House for about nine months. That, Sir, has not weakened in any way my position. On the contrary, the opinions that have been collected go to show that my Bill has a very large, wide, and, I may venture even to say, overwhelming public support. I, therefore, anticipated that this Government professing to be a democratic Government, would take due notice of the opinions expressed in favour of the Bill and would either support my Bill or would adopt it as their own. But to my surprise I find that the Government is going to move another dilatory motion just to put a stop to the consideration of the Bill for another year, for I find that the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur of Dacca proposes to move that the Bill be recirculated for the purpose of eliciting further opinion thereon by the 31st December, 1940. Now, Sir, the Bill was once circulated, circulated for a long time, and a fairly large body of opinions has been collected. The opinions as I have said go to show that the Bill has a large support in the country and yet the Nawab Bahadur comes forward to move 2½ years after the introduction of the Bill that the Bill be again circulated for the purpose of eliciting further opinion thereon by the 31st December, 1940, i.e., for another year. This is, Sir, nothing but a piece of obstructive tactics. I did not anticipate that the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur would go so far as to adopt this attitude with regard to a Bill that has found favour in the country.

Now, Sir, I do not know what point the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur is going to make for the motion of recirculation. But let me analyse the opinions that have already been collected. It will be seen from the collection of opinions that about 82 opinions have been gathered. Of these 44 are opinions of municipal bodies including of course the opinion of some of the Commissioners of the Bhatpara Municipality, 12 are opinions of public bodies other than municipalities, and 26 are opinions of officials, i.e., District Magistrates and Divisional Commissioners. Of the 44 municipalities that have expressed their opinions, 23 have definitely approved of my Bill, 16 have stated that they have no objection to the proposed measure and only 5 have

disapproved of the Bill. Of the 12 other public bodies that have expressed their opinion 10 are definitely in my favour and only 2 have disapproved of this measure. So far as the official opinions are concerned, Sir, I find there is even something to encourage me. Of the 26 officials that have expressed their opinions, as many as 12 have approved of my Bill. One more has given a qualified approval, one has chosen to express no opinion and only 12 have disapproved of this Bill. In other words I may count half of the official opinions in my favour. So, I think, I can conclude that this Bill has been overwhelmingly supported by non-official opinion, and so far as official opinion is concerned much of it has not gone against my Bill. That is the position after nine months of circulation, Sir. The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur should have taken care to understand the position and should have in all fairness refrained from tabling another motion for circulation whereby he proposes effectively to put a stop to the consideration of the Bill for a further period of one year. Now, Sir, I am not in a position to anticipate exactly the points the Nawab Bahadur will urge in support of his motion for recirculation, but if the Nawab Bahadur makes any such point that the Bill is only a short measure, piecemeal attempt to amend only one section of the Bengal Municipal Act, and that he contemplates to bring forward a comprehensive measure for the amendment of the Bengal Municipal Act, then all that I can say is that he is welcome to bring forward his Bill at any stage he likes. His Government ought to have been prepared to bring forward such a Bill by this time, and if for any reason he is still unprepared, he cannot expect others to wait unduly. My Bill is before the House for more than two and half years. Yet we do not know what programme Government have for the amendment of the Bengal Municipal Act. The only Municipal (Amendment) Bill was placed before the members of this House or rather was given notice of by the Government when the department was in charge of Mr. Syed Nausher Ali. But that Bill did not think of amending this section, or at least that part of section 18 which my Bill proposes to amend. We can, therefore, very well say that even at the begining of 1940, we do not know of the Government idea at all with regard to the amendment of the section dealt with by my Bill. So far as my Bill is concerned my apology for bringing forward a short measure of this kind is that it proposes rather to remedy a defect—an iniquitous provision—that has been introduced into the Act by a piecemeal amendment made by the Government themselves, I mean, the amending Act of 1936. My Bill now seeks to restore the idea of the original Bengal Municipal Act, of 1932. When the Municipal Act of 1932 was considered clause 17 which was the corresponding clause of section 18 of the present Act was enacted with the ideas underlying my Bill. In moving that section

the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy who was in charge of the Bengal Municipal Bill of 1932, observed as follows:—

"Clause 17 divides itself into three parts. First, it is proposed that Government should have power to form special constituencies for industries and labour and allow representation of industry and labour through nomination. Then, there is another clause—clause 2—which provides for the representation of people unconnected either with industries or labour". Then he proceeded to say "In municipalities like Bhatpara and Kanchrapara where there are original inhabitants of these places unconnected with any industry or labour, it is their standing grievance that they go unrepresented in the municipalities of their own place, and it is for removing this grievance that this clause has been put in."

So, the object of the Government was really to secure proper representation of the original inhabitants in municipalities in industrial areas.

But, the Government after the enactment of the Bengal Municipal Act of 1932 did not think of organizing separate constituencies either for the representation of labour and industry or for the representation of the non-industrial section of the population. On the contrary they chose to give a larger representation to industries and labour by way of nomination without organising any constituencies, without giving the industrial labour even any chances to come by way of election on these Municipal Boards. The Government availed themselves of the opportunity conferred by section 18 of the Act to enlarge representation of industries and labour by giving them the special nomination, that is nomination to the extent of half of the number of members on the Municipal Boards; but absolutely forgot to provide separate constituencies for proper representation of the non-industrial section of the population. They retained one general constituency or more in which the industrial as well as the non-industrial section of the population was thrown together and the result was that the industrial and labour population that got adequate representation by way of nomination had a further opportunity and chance of contesting seats even in the general constituencies that must have been meant for the original inhabitants or the non-industrial section of the population. Thus the former got the better of the latter and the non-industrial section of the population had no chance of adequate representation on the Municipal Board. Their longstanding grievance to which Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy gave expression in proposing clause 17 of the Bill of 1932, continued unremedied and still it continues unremedied. It is therefore to remedy the grievance that I have brought forward this Bill which, if you like, you may call a piecemeal legislation.

But the grievance of the non-industrial section of the population, it should be remembered, has been accentuated by the piecemeal legislation of 1936. The Act of 1932 contemplated that so far as the industrial section or the labour section was concerned, they would get their representation either by nomination or by election through constituencies delimited for them, but so far as the non-industrial section of the population was concerned they would have their representation by separate constituencies. But the amending Act of 1936 reversed the position. Contrary to the basic idea of the Municipal Act of 1932, the amending Act provided that the industrial section of the population as well as non-industrial section of the population could have their representation by separate constituencies, only if the Government gave up nomination, only if Government permitted labour and industries to be represented by election through constituencies defined for them. Only in that case the non-industrial section of the population would be allowed to come through separate constituencies delimited for them. That was the effect of the piecemeal legislation introduced in 1935, i.e., the Act of 1936. The result has been that the non-industrial section of the population has had no fair or adequate opportunity to be represented on the Municipal Board. It is therefore to undo the evil effect of the piecemeal legislation of 1935, i.e., the amending Act of 1936, that I have framed this Bill. Therefore it does not lie in the mouth of Government to say and they cannot take the plea that I am bringing forward a piecemeal legislation and so must wait till they finish drafting their Bill for the comprehensive amendment of the Bengal Municipal Act.

To sum up, I have brought forward this Bill just to remedy an old grievance—a grievance that was recognized by Government when the Bengal Municipal Act was passed into law in 1932. Then that grievance was proposed to be remedied but in fact was not remedied and not only not remedied but was accentuated by the piecemeal legislation that the Government themselves brought forward in 1935, i.e., by the amending Act of 1936. Therefore to remedy the old grievance, to undo the wrong that was further inflicted by the peicemeal legislation of 1936 I have brought forward this Bill. In the circumstances there can be no justification for the Government to obstruct such a measure as I have proposed on the ground that I am bringing forward a piecemeal legislation. That is the sum and substance of my argument and I hope the Nawab Bahadur will feel pursuaded to change his mind and to accept my motion for referring the Bill to the Select Committee. If there are any defects in my draft those defects can be removed in the Select Committee and the Nawab Bahadur will have ample chance and opportunity to remove them during the consideration of the Bill as well. So I would request

him not to obstruct the Bill at this stage by moving for recirculation of the Bill but to accept my motion for reference to the Select Committee.

The House then adjourned for 15 minutes.

(After adjournment.)

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: I beg to move that the business of the Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the order of externment served on the 14th February, 1940, on Messrs. Muzaffar Ahmed, Somenath Lahiri, Gopen Chakravorty, Deven Sen, Md. Ismail, Panchu Bhaduri, etc., from Calcutta and suburbs, by the Government of Bengal under sub-rule (2) of rule 26 of Defence of India Rules read with clause (c) of sub-rule (1) of that rule.

The statement accompanying this motion is as follows:—

The Government of Bengal in exercise of the power conferred by sub-rule (2) of rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules, read with clause (c) of sub-rule (1) of that rule served orders on 14th February, 1940, on 12 Congress and Trade Union and Peasant Leaders to leave Calcutta, Howrah, Hooghly, 24-Parganas and Asansol subdivision of Burdwan district within 24 hours. This order is a serious encroachment on civil liberties of citizens and political workers and is causing great hardship to the persons concerned and also to the public in general and workers and peasants in particular.

Sir, I would give a short description of the persons on whom orders have been served.

Mr. Muzaffar Ahmed was till recently a member of the All-India Congress Committee and a prominent member of the Trade Union, a peasant worker and a prominent member of the Provincial Kisan Committee of Bengal.

Mr. Somenath Lahiri is a member of the All-India Congress Committee and also a prominent labour worker of Calcutta.

Mr. Md. Ismail is the Secretary of the Tramway Workers Union.

Messrs. Robi Roy and Amrita Nag are connected with the Hukum Chand Iron and Steel Workers Union.

Mr. Panchu Gopal Bhuduri is one of the Assistant Secretaries of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee.

Mr. Deben Sen is the President of the Electrical Workers Union.

Mr. Robindra Mohan Das is the Secretary of the same organisation.

Mr. Bhabani Sen is the organising Secretary of the Eastern Bengal Railway Workers' Union and also an important peasant worker.

About the rest also similar descriptions may be given.

The purpose of giving a short description is to show to this House why this attempt is made to extern people who are prominent in the Trade Union and Peasant movements. I do not want to go into the fundamental question that these Defence of India Rules themselves should not have been promulgated at all, because India is not at war with any country in the world to-day——

Mr. SPEAKER: If you do that, that will be irrelevant.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: ——because neither the Congress nor the Muslim League, nor the Hindu Mahashava, has yet agreed to participate in the war. Still we have got this Ordinance here, thanks to the British domination of this country! Because they feel it necessary to fight with Germany, therefore, India and the Indian resources are dragged into the war and as a result we get this Ordinance.

Sir, I am not going to speak about the other effects of the war, but the direct effect is, as we see, the rise in prices. This very day there was a question put to the Hon'ble Minister for Commerce and Labour and he informed us that steps have been taken to see that the workers do not suffer from the high prices that are ranging in this country. I want to tell this House that by this Government absolutely nothing has been done. By the independent action of the workers in the form of strikes and other forms of agitation some of the factories have conceded only a portion of the demands of the workers. The workers have been demanding a 25 per cent. increase. Government statistics will show that the rise in prices——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, Mr. Banerjee, you are not discussing the motion. I hope you will come to your motion.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Sir, I am coming to the motion. Sir, I want to submit that what I say is quite relevant, because this attempt to extern people is only to sabotage the movement of workers so that they may not get the 25 per cent. increase which is their right and which they are demanding in hundreds of private meetings and also, wherever possible, in public meetings. Only to stifle this movement this Government has thought it fit to extern these people who are very active in this movement. We have already seen the first effect of this move on the part of Government when Comrade

Zaman was externed from his constituency, because there the workers started demanding war allowances or increment due to the war as the prices of commodities have gone high, and later on I also was the subject of the attention of this Government——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid Mr. Banerjee, if you go on arguing like this, the admissibility of future adjournment motions will be to a certain extent jeopardised.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Sir, I do not fully realize or understand the significance of your observation. To me it seems that the only reason why we are attacking these orders is that by these, the very valuable right of the workers and peasants to get their minimum demands satisfied in the form of getting war allowances and for the peasants moratorium from payment of debts and arrears of rent, is taken away. It is in that light I am looking at the whole move of the Government and in no other light. Of course, it raises other fundamental issues as restriction of civil liberties and other matters. But I want to be very specific. Ordinarily restriction of civil liberties would not be so worthy of condemnation, but here when it is done with a specific purpose to stifle the workers and peasants, certainly we cannot find words sufficiently strong to condemn the Government which can do this. That is my whole standpoint, and it is with that idea that I moved this adjournment motion. I do not know whether it will jeopardise the moving of future adjournment motions. We shall take care of ourselves when such eventualities occur, but to-day we have got the opportunity, and speaking on my behalf I brought this adjournment motion only to get this opportunity. Otherwise, there will be no meaning of this order, because had it been really for the Defence of India, there are others who are also carrying on propaganda—I need not mention names—in this province as well as in other provinces, but they are not touched. Only those who speak and propagate the right of the workers are being penalized.

Now, the prices are high, and the workers must live. Their wages are not increased while the prices are increasing, and to the shame of this Government, I may tell the Hon'ble Minister for Labour who is trying to interrupt from there, that the Government has not done anything to the workers who are directly appointed by this Government. Only in the jute mills a 10 per cent. increase has been given, because about 50,000 went on strike. Because the workers directly employed by this Government cannot go on strike nor are sufficiently organized, and the fundamental rules do not allow them to do that, therefore no increase has been given to them, not even one pice. I challenge the Hon'ble the Labour Minister to show

what he has done to the labour directly appointed by him. To take the credit for what has been done by the jute mills or other industries, does not cut any ice. If he wanted to do anything for the labour, the Labour Minister should have started with the men directly employed by him. In this very house, the men who take care of the electric lights, the cooling system, or in the Writers' Buildings those who are in charge of electric lights and electric fans, lifts and things like that, have not got any increase whatsoever during the last five months, though the prices have increased immediately after the war was declared.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Banerjee, I have the fullest sympathy with you, but I am afraid I will have to hold very soon that you are out of order.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Sir, my most humble submission is that this step has been taken by Government to curb the attempt of the workers to do anything in this direction.

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as the workers within the ambit of the externment order are concerned you can do that, but as regards those within the ambit of this House and the Secretariat, I am afraid you are not relevant

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: I agree with you, Sir. I leave out the workers who are here, but I take those on whom the orders have been served; for instance, Mr. Deben Sen and Rabi Bose are very intimately connected with the electrical workers here and in other places. They are also directly concerned by the externment order. Then there is Comrade Ismail who is the Secretary of the Tramway Workers' Union in Calcutta. There are Hindus and Muhammadans in the staff and all are equally suffering. Nothing has been done. We all konw the exploitation by the Tramway Company and the exploitation by the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation. Therefore, my submission is that only to stifle this move the Government has taken this step. Not only these, but the peasants also come in for their share, because there is a move by the Krishak Committee that as the prices of necessaries of life are increasing, specially the prices of industrial goods are rising, the peasants also must get some relief. Of course, to some extent the increase in price of jute has counter-balanced the rise of price of commodities; but most of the profit has gone to the middle-men and not to the peasants. Therefore it is absolutely necessary that when the prices of necessaries of life are rising, the peasants must also get some relief and the relief should

come in the form of a moratorium as long as the war lasts from paying any debts or arrears of rent. But anyone who voices that slogan or that demand is really a dangerous man in the eyes of this Government and naturally they had to be externed, they had to be sent away from their spheres of activities so that they may not do any mischief from the Government point of view.

There is also another aspect which I would like to emphasise in this House and that is the coming Calcutta Municipal Election. I do not think that it is irrelevant. The Municipal Election is coming and labour has been given a limited scope to take part in the elections. And those very persons who are actively connected with the unions in Calcutta, and those unions which have been fortunate enough to secure the recognition of the Government through the tribunal, they have been the object of this order and those persons have been externed not only from Calcutta but also from Howrah, Hooghly, 24-Parganas and also from the Asansol subdivision of Burdwan district. Only one portion of Bengal remains untouched and that is the district of Dacca where there are a few mills. I do not know why this portion was excluded; perhaps it has been excluded because it is the home of the Home Minister. Only this portion has been excluded. All other industrial areas have been included so that these persons as long as the war lasts will be absolutely out of action.

Many of them were living in Calcutta and one amazing fact to which I would like to draw the attention of this House is that they were given only 24 hours to leave Calcutta or the suburbs. The restrictions were still more amazing. One of them could not get down from his house to the street, and he had to stay in his own house till he could make arrangements to leave his house, to go out of his house for a long time to come. Even for 24 hours Government could not allow them to be free to make arrangements for whatever belongings they have, so that they could find money to go out of Calcutta in order that they might not starve altogether. Even this much conisderation was not shown to them. The order of the Police Commissioner of Calcutta was circumscribed within the narrow area of a few hundred square yards. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to take more time. I only want to say that the use of the Government of India Rules is only a prostitution of the rules.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Sir, the orders which were served on the persons named by the mover of this motion raise a very important issue. Apart from the effect which such orders have on the persons directly concerned, the issue, which is of very great importance and which must be raised to-day, is the manner in which the Government of Bengal propose to exercise the powers which they have been given under the Ordinances. Their rights to exercise these

powers are derived not from an authority of this House, but under the Defence of India Ordinances and the rules made thereunder—a negation of this authority.

Sir, the important issue which I am raising at the outset is that the use of these powers in this particular manner has not been sanctioned or approved either by the Coalition Party, the Congress Party or any section of this House, nor by this House itself. These powers have been derived from those Ordinances under the pretext of such measures being necessary for the defence of India. It is important to bear in mind that this war is not of the making of the Government of Bengal. The Bengal Government has no authority whatsoever to use any discretion on the question of the conduct of this war, or, on any question connected with that. Yet, Sir, the manner in which these powers have been used have led to the muzzling of the ordinary civil liberties of the people. The manner in which these powers have been used gives us very good reasons to think that the Government which derived the powers not from this House but from an autocratic fiat of the Government of India are making use of these powers with a view to maim and mutilate their rivals' organizations and activities which they do not look upon with favour. Sir, most aptly the mover of this motion referred to the Calcutta Municipal Elections in connection with which this House passed a recent legislation under which Labour has been given a special right of franchise—a right of representation in the Municipal Council for the city of Calcutta. Sir, what was needed to-day if that Act was to be given effect to, was that the workers particularly inhabiting the city of Calcutta, should have the fullest liberty to organise themselves with a view to contest those elections, with a view to execrise whatever rights this House gave them. All that right has been virtually nullified by this governmental act. Sir, it is well known that the Hon'ble Minister of Labour is not altogether innocent of complicity with a certain kind of pernicous activities with regard to Labour and, therefore, grave doubts arise in our mind and quite legitimately, that the service of these orders and the exercise of these powers prejudicially against those very persons who were organising labour in the city of Calcutta, were also prompted by partisan motives, by unfair and most unworthy considerations with a view to take away the rights of Labour of freely contesting the Municipal Elections. Sir, it is well known that the activities of a certain member of the Cabinet have been notoriously prejudicial to the Labour and Trade Union movement. (Cries of "Hear! hear!" from Congress Benches.) I do not know what connection war considerations have with the present situation in Bengal to-day. As has been referred to already, no soldier is being recruited from this province. To-day we do not see either that the Government has made any appeal or brought forward any measure for financing the war in this province, and yet here the

rigours of the Defence of India Ordinances have been most amazing and extraordinary. Therefore, Sir, we would be justified in drawing the irresistible conclusion that the Defence of India Ordinances are being utilized with a view to make impossible the ordinary activities of labour and peasantry for the amelioration of their conditions.

Then again, Sir, the mover of this motion has also alluded to the necessity of increasing the wages of the workers on account of the rise in prices. Sir, it was announced in the local papers that a dear food allowance meeting was to be held on the 15th February, and it is well known to all those who are connected with the Labour movement. Each one of the persons against whom orders have been passed was actively engaged in organising the movement for increase of wages on account of dear prices. Just on the eve of a conference which they were going to hold on the 15th February, being the first meeting in the series of meetings that were to be held in connection with the movement for increase of wages, these orders were served. Muhammad Ismail, one of the persons against whom order was passed, was an active organiser of the movement for war bonus on account of the dearness of foodstuffs. Sir, Muhammad Ismail announced a meeting to be held on the 15th in the Sradhananda Park, Calcutta. That is well known, and that was to be the beginning of the campaign with a view to secure increase of wages. The final conference was to be held on the 4th March. We find, Sir, that on the 12th February, *i.e.*, just three days before the first meeting that was to be held in this connection, orders were actually issued, and on the 14th, *i.e.*, the day before the war bonus meeting was to be held in the city of Calcutta, all the organisers were removed. Was that, Sir, the "defence" of India, or was it a measure for the ruination of the general public, for the ruination of the peasants and workers, for frustrating their legitimate demands and for depriving them of the only means that is left open to them to secure redress of their grievances?

Sir, my honourable friend also referred to the conditions of workers under the direct employ of Government, but, Sir, it is worth while noting here that on the part of Government so far no initiative has been shown and no steps have been taken to secure that the wages are increased with a view to make them proportionate to the rise in prices.

It is, Sir, these men, the victims of these orders who were coming forward to take up this task; it is these men, who, as self-sacrificing, honest and diligent labour workers have been trying hard during the last few years for the uplift of Labour, that initiated this most legitimate movement. This movement has been going on even in England which is within the bombing range of the German aeroplanes. Yet in England we find there has been no restrictions imposed on the workers against voicing their demands for a rise in the wage-rates. But, Sir, in Bengal,

thousands of miles away from the theatres of war, we find the present Government has come down upon the movement of the workers and the peasants for a rise in wages with an iron hand. And I say that the suppression of this movement for dear food allowance is the direct motive for which these orders have been issued in the manner that they have been done. I should also like to impress upon the House the fact that the powers under the Ordinance have been condemned on all hands by all the organizations in India. I say that the present Ministry is bound before they make such use of their powers to make a reference to their constituencies and also to this House. Sir, the Government of India have armed them with a dangerous weapon, but before they use such weapon against their own countrymen, to the detriment of the legitimate interests of the peasants and workers with whose franchise they have come here and are treachorously using these powers to frustrate the legitimate demands of these very people, they are morally bound to seek the sanction of this House. It is only meet and proper that they made a reference to their own party even which they have not dared to do. Sir, in all humility, and not in a spirit of frivolous challenge, I ask the Hon'ble Ministers to be bold enough to make a reference on this matter to their own Coalition party, or to open meetings in their own constituencies to see whether their constituents approve of the abuse of these powers. Let a single member come forward and approve of the use of such powers which are not derived even from this House. The exercise of such powers is a negation of the authority of this Assembly. How Bengal shall be ruled must be determined by the people of Bengal, whether they are right or wrong, it shall be determined by them alone. No other rule can find preference or precedence with them. But the Ministry has refrained from acting so, they have not dared to come before this House for any reference or necessary powers. If they thought that there was so much unrest, there was so much disturbance, so much insecurity prevalent in the province of Bengal to warrant promulgation of special measures, they had rather given a warning to the people and come to this House for powers. But, Sir, they come instead by the back door and stab the people in the back. That is, Sir, the moral position regarding the use of these powers. If for nothing else on this score alone the present Ministry, which is furthering, aiding and abetting the stabbing of the people of Bengal in the back in this manner, stand condemned. They have not the courage to-day to face their own party for an approval of their conduct. I say most emphatically that they have not the courage to hold one single meeting in any constituency in this province where they can have the vote or approval of their constituents with regard to the use of these powers. In all humility I would request the Labour Minister to come with me to any Labour constituency, in any Labour area in the city of Calcutta and its environments and press for a vote with regard to the use of these powers on the part of the Government. I hope that Hon'ble Ministers who would perhaps be boasting so

much of their record of service behind them would make bold to take up this challenge, this invitation, rather, and have their popularity tested in this respect. It is from all these points of view that this pernicious measure becomes not only a menace to the ordinary civil liberties of the people, but also destroys the very foundation of authority of the elected Legislature in the province. Is the Government prepared to allow the normal, legitimate and just activities of the people to continue, or are they determined to shut up every avenue of popular agitation, popular movement for expressing their legitimate grievances? If this suppression goes on, Sir, it is inevitable that the movement will be driven underground. This action of Government can be rightly regarded as a provocation to drive the people's movement underground. In this way Government is preparing for the ruination of the province of Bengal. I suggest this action merits the severest condemnation. Through you, Sir, I shall appeal to the members of the Coalition party even to ponder that if this precedent is set up then nobody will be safe. If the precedent were allowed to pass unchallenged then not only the civil liberties of the province would be in jeopardy, but also the rights and powers of the electorates of this province and of this very House itself. Hereafter as the war threatens to drag on and passes into the next and the most severe phase the present policy will spell the greatest danger and disaster to this province. The members will do well to pause to consider and pass the severest condemnation on this measure.

(Here the member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. ABU HOSSAIN SARKER: Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my friend Mr Sibnath Banerji with some anxiety. Not anxiety for my own self but for the movement which I hold dearer to my heart. These notices which are the subject matter of this motion were served apparently under the War Regulation Rules and are meant to be in the interests of the carrying out of the war, but I submit it is merely a plea and a pretext. These notices have nothing to do with the carrying on of the present war or for serving any purpose in that respect. They have been served with some ulterior motive which can be traced from the very beginning of the working of the present Ministry. In reality the present Ministry was afraid of the Labour and Peasant movement as the Ministry itself is composed of the zemindars, landlords and the capitalists of Bengal. The first pinch of the Peasant movement was felt by the Home Minister himself when he got a crushing defeat——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid we are not dealing with that matter. You should remember Mr. Sarker that it is no use doing so, for thereby you lose all force of your argument. This is the thousandth time that you have been saying this. I wished to hear something new from you. I hope you will remember that.

Mr. ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: All right, Sir. As I submitted the present Ministry was afraid of the Labour and Peasant movement and this will very clearly be found from the speech of Sir Nazimuddin which he delivered during the last Budget Session. In his long speech one passage is very prominent and it runs like this:

"If these men (meaning the labour and peasant workers) are allowed to succeed and to seize the power, there is no class in Bengal that will not be loser, no interest that will not be adversely affected. The danger is real and the sooner the public recognise it and create public opinion against it, the better for all of us. I do not think that my friends the constitutional Opposition in this House will subscribe to these revolutionary doctrines, although I have not observed them publicly to repudiate them. There have been striking manifestations which must be fresh in the memories of all how Congress itself, to speak of one great party alone, regard these designs on its integrity. I hope and believe that among the people of this province in every class and caste and creed, there is a substantial element which once alive to the danger will refuse to be mesmerized into accepting as the doctrine of progress the alien and discredited slogans of a dead decade. There are signs that thinking men are already conscious of the threat of destruction and organized obliteration which hangs like a storm cloud over all that they hold fair and of good report and much that bears the age-old sanction of social and religious custom."

Subsequently during the last session of the Assembly Sir Bijoy Prosad Singh Roy made it absolutely clear what the present Ministry stand for, when I was moving the Court of Wards Amendment Bill. There the Hon'ble Minister says: "As most of these estates (zemindaris of Bengal) are trusts—in the hands of their proprietors for public benefit, as they are assets to the country—Government think that it was their duty to give them protection."

As I submitted these War Regulations and these Ordinances are merely a plea and a pretext to suppress the labour and the peasant movements. The Government are now taking shelter under them in order to protect their own interests, the self-interests which the capitalists and landlords of Bengal enjoy under the present regime. I warn the Government that in spite of all these things, in spite of all these repressions and in spite of all these suppressions, the movements will go on. They are the natural consequences of the existing state of things, because only one-hundred-thousandth part of the population of Bengal enjoys the land capital which is the principal instrument of production in Bengal, and because an infinitesimal portion of the population only enjoys the money capital of this province. The people are being exploited and they are being bled white for the last two centuries and more, for the interest of British rule, which is now being supported by the present ministry. As my friend Mr. Dutta Mazumdar submitted,

if these open movements are suppressed they would be driven underground and as we have seen in this very province when the open movement of the Congress was suppressed by Sir John Anderson and Sir Charles Tegart, it took some other form and practically disturbed the whole peace of Bengal. If these things are done, and if no warning is taken from the members of this Legislature, then, the responsibility for driving the fair and good movements under-ground would lie with the present Government. If they do not take the warning and if they carry on things like this, I submit that in spite of all their attempts they will fall victims to a greater movement, and, in spite of every attempt on their part to protect their zemindari rights and their capital, will be obliterated from the surface of Bengal.

(After calling upon the Hon'ble the Home Minister to speak, Mr. Speaker allowed Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty to speak.)

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: On a point of order, Sir. After the Chair has called upon an honourable member to speak, can it withdraw that order?

Mr. SPEAKER: Just a few minutes before you heard the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin say that a District Magistrate who had the power of issuing a notification had also the power of issuing it subject to any restriction.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় সভাপতি-মহাশয়, বাংলা দেশ বহুদিন থেকে এই প্রকার বহিষ্কারের সঙ্গে পরিচিত; বাংলার সৌভাগ্য ও দুর্ভাগ্যের সঙ্গে এর পরিচয় বহু দিনের এবং সে পরিচয় নিবিড় ও গাঢ়। বাংলার হিন্দু ও মুসলমান নির্বিশেষে এবং নির্বিচারে এই চরম এবং পরম দণ্ড বহুদিন থেকে সহ্য কোরে আসছে। বিংশ শতাব্দির অভ্যুদয় আর এই নির্বাসন ও বহিষ্কার একই সময়ে বাংলার ভাগ্যাকাশে উদিত হয়েছিল। বিংশ শতাব্দি পৃথিবীর অন্যান্য জাতির ভাগ্যে এনেছিল, নব জাগরণ, শিল্পে, বাণিজ্যে, জ্ঞানে ও বিজ্ঞানের নানা উন্মেষ; আর পরাধীন আমরা,—আমাদের ভাগ্যে পাওনা ছিল নির্যাতন ও লাঞ্ছনা,—তারই প্রথম আঘাত আমাদের দুয়ারে, বিংশ শতাব্দির নব রূপ আমাদের চোখের সম্মুখে, জগতের বৈচিত্র বহন করে আনল। আমরা পরিচিত হলাম দেশের ধর্ম্মের সঙ্গে—আর ভাল করে বুঝলাম পরাধীনতার দুর্বিষহ শাসনের মহিমা। প্রায় অর্দ্ধ শতাব্দিকাল এই প্রকার বিধানের সঙ্গে আমাদের ঘনিষ্ঠ বসবাস। আজকে আমার মনে পোড়ছে, এই পরিষদের বিগত অধিবেশনের সময় যে দিন war resolution সম্বন্ধে এখানে বিশেষভাবে আলোচনা হয়েছিলো সেদিনের কথা; বর্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্টের মুখপাত্র এবং তাঁর দলের অন্যান্য অনেকের মনোভাব সেদিন অতি স্পষ্টকরে অভিব্যক্ত হয়েছিলো এবং তারদ্বারা তাঁরা এই বুঝিয়েছিলেন যে, বৃটিশ গভর্ণমেণ্টের আসন্ন বিপদে আমাদের স্বার্থ সম্পর্কে কোন প্রকার দোকানদারী না ক'রে লাভ লোকসানের কথা না তুলে বিপন্ন ইংরেজের প্রতি সর্বাগ্রে সহানুভূতি প্রদর্শন করা উচিত। সর্বপ্রকারে তাকে সাহায্য করা উচিত। সেদিন আমি একথাটা স্পষ্ট কোরে বোলেছিলাম যে, সহানুভূতি ও সাহায্যের কোন প্রশ্ন এর ভেতর নেই। প্রভু ও ভৃত্যের যেখানে সম্পর্ক সেখানে সহানুভূতি বা সাহায্যের স্থান নেই। প্রভু ও ভৃত্যের সম্পর্কের মাঝখানে একটী মাত্র শব্দের ব্যবহার চলতে পারে এবং শব্দটী হচ্ছে দাসত্ব। বাংলার গভর্ণমেণ্ট ও মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী জানেন যে তাঁরা ইংরেজের আজ্ঞাবহ ভৃত্য। অতএব তাঁরা ইংরেজের প্রত্যেকটী হুকুম

চামিল কোরতে বাধ্য। কিন্তু আমি সেদিন ভাবতে পারিনি যে বাংলাদেশের একটা প্রচলিত প্রবাদ বাক্য এম্নি কোরে ফোলে যাবে। লোকে বলে যে মনিবে ডেকে আনতে বোল্লে চাকর কান ধোরে টেনে আনে; আর ধোরে আনতে বোল্লে গর্দানা ধোরে নিয়ে আসে। এবং একেই বলে নির্জ্জলা প্রভুভক্তির পরাকাষ্ঠা। ইংরেজের বিপদ দেখে তাদের ভক্ত অনুগত ভৃত্যের দল চাইছে তাদের নিজের দেশকে বিপন্ন কোরেও প্রভুর মনস্তুষ্টি সাধন। এবং সেইজন্যই আজ আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি ইংলণ্ডেও যে ব্যবস্থা প্রবর্ত্তিত হয়নি, যে আচরণ সেখানকার সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীরা দেশবাসীর সঙ্গে কোরতে কুণ্ঠাবোধ কোরছে ঠিক সেই আচরণ বাংলার "জনপ্রিয়" মন্ত্রীরা আজ এই বাংলাদেশের বুকের উপর অসঙ্কোচে কোরে যাচ্ছে। আমি কিন্তু এই জঘন্য আচরণও দুঃখ ও বিপদ বলে মনে করি না; পরাধীনতার যে এ দুর্ভাগ্য অনিবার্য্য পরিণাম। নিজেদের ও সমগ্র জাতির মন-বুক তিক্ত দুঃখে ও অসহ্য বেদনায় আলোড়িত হয়ে ওঠে তখনি যখন এই হতভাগ্যেরদল নিজেদের আমাদের দেশের লোক বোলে পরিচয় দেয়, বাঙালী বোলে পরিচয় দেয়। অথচ তারাও জানে যে, তাদের সঙ্গে ইংরেজের কোন সম্পর্ক নেই, তাদের রক্তের সঙ্গে, তাদের বংশের সঙ্গে, তাদের মানমর্য্যাদার সঙ্গে বা ঐতিহাসিক কোন ভিত্তির সঙ্গে ইংরেজের কোন দিন কোন সম্পর্ক ছিল না—আজিও নেই। তবুও ঐরূপ হীণ এবং লজ্জাজনক পন্থা অবলম্বন কোরতে তারা কুণ্ঠিত হয় না। এই যে দাস মনোভাব, দাসত্বের প্রতি এই যে ঐকান্তিক অনুরক্তি জাতির জীবনে এর চেয়ে লজ্জাকর আর কিছু হোতে পারে না। আমি নিজেকে বাঙ্গালী বোলে পরিচয় দিতে লজ্জা বোধ করি যখন দেখি স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিনও বাঙ্গালী বোলে নিজের পরিচয় দেন; তখন নিজেকে বাঙ্গালী বোলতে লজ্জা হয়, মনের ভিতর ধিক্কার আসে, যখন দেখি জাতির এই সব মূর্ত্ত লজ্জা ও অপমান জাতির প্রতিনিধিত্ব দাবী করবার স্পর্দ্ধা করে। U. P. তে আজ পুরোপুরি ইংরেজ গভর্ণমেণ্ট চোলছে, সেখানকার সেই ইংরেজ গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে কাজ কোরতে লজ্জা পায়, মাদ্রাজের ইংরেজ গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে কাজ কোরতে কুণ্ঠিত হয়, বাঙালী বলে পরিচয় দিয়েও স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন এবং তার অধ্যক্ষ মিঃ ফজলুল হক সেই কাজ কোরতে লজ্জা অনুভব করেন না। (Laughter amongst the members of the Coalition Party.) আমার কথা শুনে মন্ত্রীদের সমর্থকেরা কেউ কেউ হাসছেন; তাঁদের পক্ষে এটা খুবই স্বাভাবিক! দেশের যখন দুর্ভাগ্য হয়, জাতিকে যখন পরম ও চরম দুর্ভাগ্যের সম্মুখীন হোতে হয় সে তখন এম্নি কোরেই নিজের হত্যাকে টেনে নিয়ে আসে। দাসত্বের শৃঙ্খলকে তখন তারা অলঙ্কার বোলে মনে করে। অপমানকে তখন তারা মনে করে গৌরব, কারণ তখন তারা আত্মসম্মান বোধ একেবারেই হারিয়ে ফেলে, এবং দাসত্বের পঙ্কতিলক ললাটে ধারণ কোরে নিজেদের গৌরবান্বিত মনে করে।

সেদিন ফজলুল হক সাহেব বোলেছিলেন কো-অপারেশনের কথা, ইংরেজের সঙ্গে সহযোগিতার কথা। গোলামের পক্ষে এই হচ্ছে স্বাভাবিক ধর্ম্ম। তারা চিরকাল বড় বড় শব্দ দিয়ে নিজেদের দৈন্য ও লজ্জা ঢেকে রাখতে চেষ্টা করে। গোলামীর সব চাইতে বড় কলঙ্ককে গৌরবের আবরণে ঢেকে আত্মপ্রসাদ অনুভব করে। ইংরেজের সঙ্গে কো-অপারেশন মানে জাতির বুকে শেল হেনে দেওয়া। ইংরেজের সঙ্গে কো-অপারেশন মানে সমগ্র জাতির ভাগ্য নিয়ে ছিনিমিনি খেলা, জাতির যারা পৌরুষ, জাতির যারা গৌরব, জাতির যারা সেবক, যারা জাতির উদ্ধার চায় সেই সকল মুক্তিকামী সৈনিকদের মাথায় বজ্র হানতে হবে; নৈলে তোমরা অনুরক্ত ভৃত্য কিসের? তোমরা আপাম পাট্টা লিখে দেওয়া মৌরসী চাকর, এবং সেই চাকুরী বজায় রাখতে হোলে তোমাদের কোরতে হবে ইংরেজের মনস্তুষ্টি। এছাড়া গত্যন্তর নাই, "নান্য পন্থাঃ বিদ্যতে অয়নায়।" মনুসংহিতা বোলেছেন—"স্ববৃত্তি তুল্যা খলু দাসবৃত্তিঃ।" অর্থাৎ চাকরের বৃত্তি কুকুর বৃত্তির সমান। যেমন প্রভুর মনস্তুষ্টির জন্য কুকুর আত্মস্বার্থ বিসর্জ্জন দেয় ঠিক তেম্নি কোরে তারা আপন জাতির স্বার্থ বিসর্জ্জন দিয়ে ইংরেজ প্রভুর মনস্তুষ্টি সাধনে তৎপর হোয়েছেন। তাইজন্যে যাদের নাকি আত্মসম্মান বোধ আছে, নিজেদের ব্যক্তিত্ব বজায় রাখতে যারা প্রয়াসী, জগতের সম্মুখে মানুষ বোলে পরিচয় দিতে যারা নাকি প্রকৃতই ইচ্ছুক, তারা স্বেচ্ছায় কখনো কারো দাসত্ব স্বীকার করে না,—বিশেষতঃ

বিদেশীর দাসত্ব। ভাগ্য বিপর্য্যয়ে কখনো কখনো রাজনৈতিক পরাধীনতা অপরিহার্য্য হয়ে ওঠে; সেদিন জাতির আত্মা এই দুর্ভাগ্যকেই স্বাভাবিক অবস্থা বলে স্বীকার করে না। তাই বিদ্রোহ দেখা দেয়—বিপ্লবের লাল শিখা মাঝে মাঝে জাতিকে স্মরণ করিয়ে দেয় তার অপরাজেয় আত্মার ধর্ম্ম ও মর্ম্ম। প্রভুর আজ্ঞানুবর্ত্তী হোয়ে যাকে চোলতে হয়, নিজের দেশ ও জাতির প্রতি মমতা বোধের তার অবসর কোথায়? সে কখনো স্বাধীনতার স্বপ্ন দেখে না, বা স্বদেশের স্বাধীনতার জন্য সর্বস্ব পণ করবার যে মহান স্পৃহা সে স্পৃহা কখনো তার অন্তরকে আলোড়িত করে না। আপন দেশ ও জাতির সর্বনাশে তার বরং আনন্দই হয়, সেই জন্যই, দেশের লোকের উপর অত্যাচার করবার নীচ ও জঘন্য প্রবৃত্তি তার মনকে এমনিভাবেই আচ্ছন্ন কোরে ফেলে যে সেই অত্যাচারকেই ক্ষমতার প্রসার বোলে বড়াই কোরতে এই গোলামদের কোনদিন লজ্জা হয় না।

আজ এই যে ১১ জন বাংলার কর্ম্মীকে নির্ম্মমভাবে তাদের কর্ম্মস্থান ও বাসগৃহ থেকে অপসারিত করা হোয়েছে, এর পেছনে কোন নীতি আছে? কোন নীতি ও অধিকারের বলে বিনা বিচারে এদের এমনি করে গৃহহারা করা হলো? আমরা ইংরেজের প্রচার বিভাগের মহিমায় জার্ম্মান নাজিদের অত্যাচারের বিবরণ পেয়ে থাকি। নাজি "গেষ্টাপো" এমনি করেই তাদের বিরুদ্ধ পক্ষের লোকদের সায়েস্তা করে থাকে। কোন অভিযোগের প্রয়োজন নেই, কৈফিয়ৎ দেবার আবশ্যকতা নেই—হাতে অবাধ শক্তি আছে—সেই দুর্দ্দম নৃশংস শক্তিকে লেলিয়ে দিলেই হোল। নিরুদ্বিগ্ন নিদ্রিত নাগরিক আচমকা জেগে দেখলো তার গৃহ নেই, পরিজন নেই, স্নেহ নেই, প্রেম নেই, মমতা নিঃশেষ হয়ে গেছে—হয় পাষাণ কারার অন্তরালে তার জীবনের সমাধি হবে—আর না হয় সর্বহারা হয়ে দুনিয়ার বুকে ভিক্ষুকের বেশে তাকে দাঁড়াতে হবে। এই নিষ্ঠুরতার অনুষ্ঠান প্রধানতঃ যাঁর কর্তৃত্বাধীনে ঘোটছে সেই "স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিনের" নামের শব্দে "নাজি" শব্দের যথেষ্টই সৌসাদৃশ্য আছে; তাই বোধ হয় এঁদের আচরিত কর্ম্মধারাও অভিন্ন——

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: On a point of order, Sir. The question before the House, raised by this motion, is as to the justification or otherwise of certain orders that have been passed. Is it permissible for an honourable member, in discussing a motion of this kind, to indulge in abuses, general or specific, either of the Ministers or of those who support the Ministers? Are not these remarks irrelevant?

Mr. SPEAKER: All I feel is that so far as this motion is concerned, and all adjournment motions—they are in the nature of censure of Government and acts of Government and as such any motion which raises a specific issue on the point of certain orders passed by Government naturally brings in its train the criticism of the conduct of Government. I have not yet heard from him anything about the party. That would be wholly out of order.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I may point out one remark that has been made. If I have been able to catch the expression that has been used, this, if translated, would be that the mentality of a slave is worse than the mentality of a dog. (Mr. TULSHI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Quite right). All dogs are alike—that is also true.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must say, Mr. Chakrabarty, that I was watching very carefully your arguments. You have already spoken for about 10 minutes and you have discussed only the general effect of it, but you have not discussed the motion itself.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমি সেই কথাই বোলতে চাইছি—এই যে এগারো জন লোক যাদের নাকি ঐ রকম অতর্কিত-ভাবে ধোরে নিয়ে যাওয়া হোয়েছে, গভর্ণমেন্টের ঐ বিভাগের যিনি কর্তা তিনি কি একটী বারও বিবেচনা কোরে দেখেছেন যে, এই ১১ জন লোক ২৪ ঘন্টার ভিতর কোন স্থানে গিয়ে দাঁড়াবে? এই বাংলাদেশে একটী মাত্র নিরন্ন যুবকের ও অন্নসংস্থানে অক্ষম যে গভর্ণমেন্ট, সেই অকর্ম্মন্য গভর্ণমেন্ট এগারো জন লোককে খুসী মাফিক ধোরে নিয়ে গেলো! হয়তো তার মধ্যে গৃহের একমাত্র উপার্জ্জনশীল ব্যক্তি রয়েছে, হয়তো তার মধ্যে এমন একটী লোকও রয়েছে যে নাকি বৃদ্ধা মাতার একমাত্র পুত্র। অসহায়া স্ত্রীর একমাত্র অবলম্বন। অথচ যাদের ধোরে নেওয়া হোয়েছে এবং গৃহছারা কোরে বহিষ্কার কোরে দেওয়া হয়েছে তাদের সংসারের ভার, তাদের পুত্র পরিজনের যে অবশ্যম্ভাবী ক্ষতি সে ক্ষতিপূরণের দায়িত্ব কি গভর্ণমেন্ট গ্রহণ কোরবেন? আমি জানি তা করবার মতো দায়িত্বজ্ঞান বাংলার গভর্ণমেন্টের নেই। আমি জানি, সে চিন্তা পর্য্যন্ত তাদের মনে উদয় হয় না। এই বহিষ্কৃতদের হয়তো অনেকেই জানে না যে কোথায় কোন জেলায় তারা যাবে, কোথায় কি বাসস্থানের সন্ধান তারা কোরবে, কোথায় কিভাবে কার অন্নসংস্থান হবে? আমি তাই বোলতে চাইছি নিষ্ঠুর এই যে আইন, এ আইন বৃটিশ গভর্ণমেন্ট যে ইচ্ছাপ্রণোদিত হোয়েই করুক, এটা Defence of India, এই নামে করা হলেও, এটা প্রকৃত পক্ষে, Defence of India র আবরণে, Defence of British Imperialism এবং এ সম্বন্ধে কারো বিন্দু মাত্রও সন্দেহের অবকাশ থাকতে পারে না। তারপরে এই ভারতরক্ষা আইনের প্রয়োগ বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্ট যে ভাবে নিজেদের অভিসন্ধি ও স্বার্থের জন্য কোরছেন তা দেখে কারও আর একথা বুঝতে বাকি নেই যে "It is not for the defence of India but for the defence of the Bengal Ministry" এই বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীত্বকে কায়েম করবার জন্যে তাদের স্বার্থকে অক্ষুন্ন রাখবার জন্যে ১১ জন বাঙালী যুবককে, যারা মনেও জানেনা যে তারা কি অন্যায় কোরেছে, যারা দেশের মধ্যে কোন অশান্তি উৎপাদন করেনি, বিপ্লব বা বিদ্রোহ করেনি, যাদের হাতে কামান ছিলো না, বন্দুক ছিল না, এক গাছা লাঠি পর্য্যন্ত যাদের সম্বল নেই তাদের বলা হয়েছে বিদ্রোহী! এবং সেই অপরাধে তাদের নির্ম্মম ভাবে দেশ থেকে বের কোরে বর্ত্তমান Bengal Ministry নিশ্চিন্ত হোতে চায়। এম্নি কোরে যারা মানুষের উপর অবাধে অত্যাচার কোরে আসছে, নিজেরাই যারা পরম অত্যাচারী তারাই চায় অত্যাচারের বিরুদ্ধে সহানুভূতি। চেকদের উপর আর পোলাণ্ডে জার্ম্মেণীর অত্যাচারের দোহাই দিয়ে ইংরাজ ও ফরাসী জাতি পৃথিবীতে শান্তি ও সভ্যতা রক্ষার বিরাট কল্পনা নিয়ে জার্ম্মেণীর বিরুদ্ধে যখন যুদ্ধ কোরছে, এ সময় ভারতবর্ষের যারা মুক্তিকামী তাদের কি মুক্ত রাখা চলে? বর্ত্তমান বাঙলার মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী বহুদিন থেকেই নানাভাবে নানাকথা বোলতে সুরু কোরেছে, যে কথা বিদেশে গেলে, ভারতবর্ষের বাহিরে গেলে লোকে মনে কোরবে বাংলাদেশে বিরাট বিপ্লবের আয়োজন হোয়েছিলো, এবং সেই আসন্ন বিপ্লবের হাত থেকে বাংলাদেশকে রক্ষা করবার জন্যে বাংলার মন্ত্রীমণ্ডল ঠিক সময়ে বিপ্লবীদের দমন কোরে বাংলাদেশকে রক্ষা কোরেছেন। বাংলার মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর মুখপত্র "Bengal Weekly"তে শীঘ্রই প্রচারিত হবে বিপ্লবীদের দমন কোরে মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী শুধু বাংলাদেশকেই যে রক্ষা কোরেছেন তা নয় বাংলার রাজনৈতিক জীবন রক্ষা কোরেছেন, বাংলার জাতীয় জীবনকে রক্ষা কোরেছেন!

এই সব মিথ্যে, এই সব অন্তঃসারশূন্য অসত্য কথা জগতের চোখের উপর তুলে ধরবার জন্য তাঁদের "Bengal Weekly" রোয়েছে। তাতে একথাও লিখে হয়ত প্রচার করা হবে যে

তৎপরতার সঙ্গে এই সব বিদ্রোহীদের বহিষ্কার করবার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে বাংলা থেকে আসন্ন বিপ্লব ও [illegible] পুনরাক্রমনের ভয় বিদূরিত হোয়েছে। তাছাড়া স্যার নাজিমুদ্দীনের জরুরী ব্যবস্থার ফলে বাংলার মিল অঞ্চলের [illegible] জীবন বিপন্ন হওয়ার যে উপক্রম হোয়েছিল সে ভয়ও নিবারিত হোয়েছে এবং এদের নির্বাচন না দিলে মিল মালিকদের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে সমস্ত জাতি ধ্বংস হোয়ে যেত। এই মিথ্যা গ্লানি প্রচার কোরে Sir Nazimuddin গৌরব বোধ কোর্তে পারেন কিন্তু বাংলাদেশও বাঙালী জাতির পক্ষে এই অপরিসীম লজ্জা শুধু বেদনারই সৃষ্টি করে না, বাঙালীকে ক'রে তোলে বিশ্বের কাছে হতমান, দীনতা ও হীনতার মস্ক-মালীন কদর্যতায় জাতির কাছে তার ফুটে ওঠে নির্ম্মম ঘৃণ্যরূপ।

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Sir, may I speak after Mr. B. Mukherjee because I want to wind up the debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: Very well. But I may say that to-day being a non-official day, there is very little time left for this debate.

Mr. B. MUKHERJEE: সাধারণতঃ মানুষের চলাফেরার ও গতিবিধির স্বাধীনতা হরণ ক'রে নেওয়া অন্যায় কাজ। সম্প্রতি যে অর্ডারটা পাশ করা হোয়েছে তাতে এই স্বাধীনতা হরণের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে এর ভিতর যে নৃসংশতা রোয়েছে সেইটাই লক্ষ্য করবার বিষয়। আমি জানি বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর কোন কোন মন্ত্রী সাধারণ গুণ্ডার প্রতিও যে সহানুভূতি কোন কোন সময় দেখিয়েছেন আজকে এই রাজনৈতিক কর্ম্মিদের প্রতি সেই সহানুভূতি ও দরদ টুকু দেখাতে পাচ্ছেন না (shame)। অত্যন্ত আরামের সঙ্গে একটা অর্ডার দেওয়া হোল এ সমস্ত লোককে ২৪ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে কলিকাতা ত্যাগ কোরতে হবে, এবং আসে পাশের কোন জেলায় অবস্থান কোরতে পারবে না। তাহলে তাঁরা কোথায় যাবেন এবং তাঁদের যাবার পয়সা আছে কিনা এবং সেখানে গিয়ে জীবিকার্জ্জনের কোন উপায় কোরতে পারবেন কিনা সে বিষয়ে কোন চিন্তা করা হয় নাই। যেহেতু তাঁরা মন্ত্রীদের মত হাজার দুহাজার টাকা মাহিয়ানা draw কোরতে পারেন না সেই হেতু তাদের পক্ষে যে অসুবিধা ঘটতে পারে সেই কল্পনাটুকুও মন্ত্রীদের মাথায় আসে না। মানুষের যে এমন অবস্থা হোতে পারে যেখানে তার পক্ষে ১০টা টাকা সংগ্রহ কোরতে বহু কষ্ট স্বীকার কোরতে হয় বোধ হয় একথা তাঁদের জানা নাই। ২৪ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে ছোট স্থানের ভিতর থেকে অনির্দ্দিষ্ট কালের জন্য কলিকাতা ত্যাগের ব্যবস্থা কোরতে পারে এতখানি ধনী তাঁরা নন প্রকথাটা বোধ হয় কর্ত্তৃপক্ষ অনুভব কোরতে পারেন নি। সেই হিসাবে বোলতে চাই নৃসংশতার সীমা নেই এই অর্ডারে।

এর পূর্ব্বেও গভর্ণমেণ্ট হয়ত বহুবার লোকের এই রকমভাবে স্বাধীনতায় হস্তক্ষেপ কোরেছেন, হয়ত হাজার হাজার বাঙ্গালী যুবককে interned কোরেছেন কিন্তু তার ভিতর এই নৃসংশতা ছিল না। তাদের রক্ষণাবেক্ষণের এবং খাওয়া পরার ব্যবস্থা গভর্ণমেণ্ট কোরেছিলেন।

দ্বিতীয়ত, যদি বুঝতে পারা যেতো যে এরা সবাই অন্য প্রদেশের লোক, এবং এদের অন্য জায়গায় যেতে বাধ্য করা হোচ্ছে, তা হোলে কেবল civil liberty র প্রশ্ন উঠতো। যারা কলিকাতার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা, যাদের অন্য স্থানে যাওয়ার সম্ভাবনা নেই, তাদের যদি বলা হোত, কলিকাতার সীমানার বাইরে যেতে পারবেনা, তাহোলে হয়তো civil liberty র প্রশ্ন জাগতো অর্থাৎ যে সীমানার ভিতর থেকে তাদের নিজেদের জীবিকার্জ্জন কোরতে হয়, সেই সীমানার মধ্যে আটক করা হোলে এই প্রশ্নটা উঠতো কিন্তু সঙ্গে সঙ্গে নৃসংশতার প্রশ্ন জাগতো না। কিন্তু এই ব্যাপারে নৃসংশতার যে পরিচয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষ থেকে পাওয়া গিয়েছে, তা বোধ হয়

Nazism বা Fascism এর মধ্যেও পাওয়া যায় না। বোধ হয় পৃথিবীর অনেক Dictator এই বিষয়ে আমাদের Dictator দের অনুকরণ কোরতে পারেন, এবং এই অর্ডার থেকে এই শিক্ষা পেতে পারেন যে মানুষ তার দেশবাসীর প্রতি কতদূর নৃশংস হোতে পারে।

আজ এই adjournment motion যে নীতির বিরুদ্ধে আনা হোয়েছে যদি সেই নীতি অনুসৃত হোতে থাকে তা হোলে যে সব রাজনৈতিক কর্ম্মীদের Ministerial Party র সঙ্গে কোন রকম মতভেদ আছে, তাদের জীবন দুর্ব্বিসহ হোয়ে উঠবার সম্ভাবনা আছে। যে কোন সময়, প্রমানের প্রয়োজন নেই, যুদ্ধের অজুহাতে অসুবিধাজনক rival মতাবলম্বী ব্যক্তিকে সরাবার অদ্ভুত ক্ষমতা আহরণ কোরে রাখা হোয়েছে। সেই ক্ষমতার প্রকোপে আজ ৬ মাস যাবৎ বাংলা দেশ কম্পিত হোয়ে রোয়েছে, বাংলার জনমতকে নিষ্পেসিত করা হোয়েছে। আমি প্রধান মন্ত্রীকে challenge করছি তিনি তার constituency পটুয়াখালীতে গিয়ে যদি গভর্ণমেণ্টের এই অনুসৃত নীতির সমর্থন আনতে পারেন, আমি তার সঙ্গে যেতে প্রস্তুত আছি, সেখানকার মুসলমান কৃষকদের কাছ থেকে, এই যে নিজের মত প্রকাশ করবার অধিকার এবং march করবার অধিকার হরণ কোরে নেওয়া হোয়েছে এই সম্বন্ধে তাঁরা গভর্ণমেণ্টকে সমর্থন করেন কি?

Election যতই আসন্ন হোয়ে উঠবে ততই প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বীদের Field থেকে সরাবার মস্ত বড় সুযোগ এই War গভর্ণমেণ্টকে দিয়েছে। অথচ কোথায় War, বাংলার সঙ্গে তার কোন সম্পর্ক নেই। আমার পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী বক্তা বোলেছিলেন যেখানে সত্যিকারের War চোলছে অর্থাৎ Great Britain এ সেখানে communist প্রভৃতি দলের লোকও যদি তারা যুদ্ধের বিরুদ্ধেও মত প্রকাশ করে তাও তাদের করবার অধিকার আছে। কিন্তু বাংলায় যার সঙ্গে War এর মাত্র গৌণ সম্পর্ক, সেখানে এমন কি সঙ্কট উপস্থিত হোয়েছে যার জন্য সামান্য trade unionist দের এখান থেকে অপসারিত করবার প্রয়োজন হোচ্ছে?

আমি জানিতাম ইতিমধ্যে একটা মস্ত বড় Communist Bogey তোলা হবে। কিন্তু দেখা গেল ২।৩ মাস কলিকাতা search কোরে এ সম্বন্ধে কোন প্রমানই পাওয়া গেল না। ২৬শে জানুয়ারীর Independence Day র পূর্ব্বেই মুজাফর আহমদ প্রভৃতিকে গ্রেপ্তার করা হয়। মহা আড়ম্বরে তাদের Chief Presidency Magistrate র নিকট নিয়ে যাওয়া হয়; কিন্তু তারা বেকসুর খালাস পায়। তারপরই এই অর্ডার যে ২৪ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে কলিকাতা ছেড়ে যেতে হবে। অর্থাৎ benefit of doubt আসামী না পেয়ে পুলিশ পেল। Public Prosecutor এদের বিরুদ্ধে কোন অভিযোগ প্রমান কোরতে পারলেন না। পুলিশও বহু থানাতল্লাস কোরে একটা যে ভীষণ ও ভয়াবহ অবস্থা হোয়েছে, কোর্টে তা প্রমান কোরতে পারলেন না। তথাপি হাজার হাজার লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ কোরে যে inefficient police পোষণ না পারলেও এই সমস্ত লোককে বহিষ্কৃত করা একান্ত প্রয়োজন গভর্ণমেণ্ট যদি এই সিদ্ধান্ত কোরে করা হচ্ছে সেই পুলিশের ধারণার পোষকতা কোরতে হবে। অর্থাৎ কোর্টে convict কোরতে থাকেন, তাহোলে benefit of doubt এর একটা অদ্ভুত প্রয়োগের example তাঁরা দেখিয়েছেন।

আজ এই যে ১১জন লোকের উপর বহিষ্কারের অর্ডার দেওয়া হোয়েছে এটা একটা বিচ্ছিন্ন জিনিস নয়। যুদ্ধ আরম্ভ হওয়ার পর থেকে গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে মহা সুযোগ উপস্থিত হোয়েছে। তাদের টলমল সিংহাসন বাংলার জনগণের অজ্ঞতার উপর প্রতিষ্ঠিত—দেড় বৎসর পরে আবার মন্ত্রীদের জনগণের সম্মুখী হোতে হবে সেই ভয়ে তারা কম্পমান। তাই তারা এই War সুযোগ গ্রহন কোরে দেখছেন যদি কোন রকমে জনমত নিষ্পেষন করা যায় যদি কোন প্রকারে কৃষক ও শ্রমিকের মুক বেদনার প্রকাশের পথ বন্ধ কোরে দেওয়া যায় তাহোলে হয়ত এরপর এমনি এক জবরদস্ত নীতির ভিতর দিয়ে তাদের সিংহাসন কায়েম কোরতে পারেন এই জিনিসটাই বরাবর অনুসৃত হচ্ছে এর চরম পরিণতি

আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি এই অর্ডারের ভিতর দিয়ে। তারা কতকগুলি কর্ম্মীকে বাছাই কোরে নিয়েছে। সম্প্রতি যে সমস্ত union এ successful strike হোয়েছে তাদের কর্ম্মীরা এর ভিতরে পোড়েছে যেমন electrical workers union এর দেবেন সেন। দেবেন সেন একজন Gandhite তার সঙ্গে communism এর সম্পর্ক নাই কিন্তু যেহেতু তিনি electric workers দের organise কোরতে পেরেছেন এবং তারা strike কোরলে ধনীর পক্ষে অসুবিধা হোতে পারে অতএব দেবেন সেনকে অপসারিত করার প্রয়োজন।

হুকুমচাঁদ মিলে মন্ত্রীদের উপস্থিতি সত্ত্বেও strike যখন ভাঙ্গিলে না তখন হিন্দু-মুসলমান সংঘর্ষের চেষ্টা করা হোল। এই সংঘর্ষের যারা বিরোধিতা কোরেছিলেন strike যারা organise কোরেছিলেন তাদের প্রতিও গভর্ণমেণ্টের দৃষ্টি বেশী রকম তীক্ষ্ম দেখা গেল, তাদেরও কেহ কেহ এই অর্ডারের ভিতর পোড়েছেন (ভূপেন, রবি, প্রভৃতি) এমনি কোরে Comrade Ismail কলিকাতা Tramway Workers Union কে organise কোরবার চেষ্টা কোরেছিলেন। গোপেন চক্রবর্ত্তী, রবিবাবু, প্রভৃতির প্রতি গভর্ণমেণ্টের দৃষ্টি খুব তীক্ষ্ম দেখা যাচ্ছে। তারাও এই অর্ডারের ভিতর পোড়েছেন। এ সমস্ত নেতৃস্থানীয় ব্যক্তিকে অপসারিত করার মানে হচ্ছে অন্যান্য নেতাদের terrorise করা এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে workers দেরও সমস্ত organisation কে terrorise করা। যাতে কোরে সে সমস্ত super profits হচ্ছে তা যাতে অব্যাহত থাকে সেই চেষ্টা এখনকার প্রধান লক্ষ্যের বিষয় দেখতে পাচ্ছি। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি বাংলা দেশের সমস্ত কৃষকদের বিরুদ্ধেও অভিযান চোলছে। জলপাইগুড়ি, দিনাজপুর থেকে লোমহর্ষণ সংবাদ আসছে। ময়মনসিংহের অবস্থা অত্যন্ত সঙ্কটজনক; এম্নি কোরে যারা বাংলার কৃষকদের ভিতর ভীতি উৎপাদন করাচ্ছে, যাতে তারা পাটের সর্ত্ত নিম্নদরও moratorium এর জন্য চেষ্টা না করে। এখন থেকে গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে তৈয়ারী হচ্ছেন তার প্রথম সূচনা দেখতে পাচ্ছি।

এই adjournment motion এখানে হয়ত ভোটের জোরে পরাজিত হওয়ার সম্ভাবনা আছে কিন্তু তা সত্ত্বেও এর মধ্যে একটা মস্ত বড় warning রয়েছে। বাংলার ভাগ্য নিয়ন্ত্রণ এই House এর ভিতর হয় না, হয় এর বাহিরে। সেখানে এই নীতিকে বন্ধ কোরে দেওয়া হবে, তার সূচনা হোয়েছে। আমি সেই হিসাবে Sir Nazimuddin কে ধন্যবাদ দেই যে তিনি বাংলার বিপ্লবী ও বিদ্রোহী শক্তি যা মর্ম্মাহত ও মূর্চ্ছিত ছিল তাকে তিনি তীব্র খোঁচা দিয়ে জাগিয়ে তুলছেন। তেমনি অন্য হিসাবে আমি তাঁকে আমন্ত্রন করি তিনি আরও বেশী কোরে কৃষক, শ্রমিক ও রাজনিতীক কর্ম্মীদের উপর নীপিড়ন আনয়ন করুন এবং ইতিহাসে তিনি চিরস্মরনীয় হোয়ে থাকেন, যে বিপরীত দিক থেকে তিনি বাংলাকে জাগিয়ে দেবার কাজ কোরেছেন। এই জন্য আমি এই নীতির শুধু প্রতিবাদ কর্চ্ছিনা, আমন্ত্রনও কর্চ্ছি আরও বেশী কোরে এত অল্প ভোজে নয়, আরো বেশী কোরে দিন।

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Mr. Speaker, not long ago I had occasion to say a few words regarding the Defence of India Act and the Rules made thereunder. On that occasion I described the Act and the Rules made thereunder as promulgated not for the defence of India's freedom but for the perpetuation of India's slavery. I did not anticipate on that occasion that within few weeks of that speech of mine the Government would issue orders which would justify to the full the observation which I had made on that occasion. Sir, we know that the Defence of India Act has been promulgated by the Central Legislature and that the rules which have been framed thereunder have been applied by them to this province. I know that the Government of this

province had no option but to accept the rules,—had no option, unless they chose out of a sense of self-respect, out of a sense of dignity, out of a sense of prestige, to decline to promulgate those rules in this province, to stand up for the rights of the people to stand up for the liberties of the people and to say with one voice,—Well, you the Government of India may promulgate your rules, but we the Government of Bengal, the people's Government, the popular Government will stand between those rules in our province. Sir, it was a vain hope. This Government, as we know, tamely, docilely submitted to those rules.

Let me now come to the manner in which those rules are being applied in this province. May I, Sir, remind the House of what the Preamble to the Act says—"Whereas an emergency has arisen which renders it necessary to provide for special measures to ensure the public safety and interest and the defence of British India and for the trial of certain offences" That is the Preamble. To start with, I believe the Hon'ble the Home Minister will not contend in this House that the orders which have been passed on 14 peaceful citizens were orders which were necessary for "the defence of British India." I believe he will seek to take shelter under the words "public safety and interest." Sir, these words or words almost similar to them are to be found in the Defence of the Realm Act and Regulations of Great Britain of the year 1914, which came up for consideration before the House of Lords in the year 1917, and I may remind this House of the words of protest which were uttered by that great jurist, Lord Shaw of Dunfermline. I hope the repetition of his words in this House will satisfy everyone who approaches this matter with an open mind that the Defence of India Act and the Rules made thereunder were not promulgated with the object, with the intention of locking up or externing peaceful citizens who are going about their normal avocations. The words of Lord Shaw which I find in the Appeal Cases of 1917 were these: "In the exercise of that power" considering, as he was doing, the expressions which were to be found in the Defence of the Realm Act and Regulations of 1914, said he: "In the exercise of that power the plainest teachings of history and dictates of justice demand that, on the one hand, Government power, and, on the other, individual rights—these two—shall face each other as party and party But it is not so, so it is said; here the Government as a party shall act at its own hand; the subject as a party shall submit and shall not be heard; the Government is at once to be party, judge and executioner. When—so is the logic of the argument—Parliament took elaborate pains to make a legal course and legal remedy plain to the subject as to all the regulations which were stated in detail, there was one thing which Parliament did not disclose, but left Courts of law to imply—namely, that Parliament, all the time and intentionally, left another deadly weapon in the hands of the Government of the day under which the

remainder of those very Acts, not to speak of the entire body of the laws of these islands protective of liberty, would be avoided. As occasion served the Government of the day, despotic force could be wielded, and that whole fabric of protection be gone. My Lords, I do not believe Parliament ever intended anything of the kind. We are not in the region of subtlety or obliquity. Holding the views I do of this parliamentary transaction, and forming these from the language employed, I cannot attribute to the Legislature the intention alleged."

Sir, these words apply with equal force to the Defence of India Act and the Rules made thereunder, and I will ask the House to consider and to decide in favour of the view I am placing before it that the Defence of India Act and the Rules made thereunder cannot have the intention which the Government of the day alleged that they have. They do not say so in so many words, but their conduct shows, their conduct in externing fourteen peaceful citizens shows that they are attributing to an Act and Rules of the Central Legislature the intention which they never had.

Now, Sir, there is one other passage in the speech of Lord Shaw which I will make no apology for quoting in this House. He said towards the end of his speech before the House of Lords: "Vested with this power of proscription, and permitted to enter the sphere of opinion and belief, they, who alone can judge as to public safety and defence, may reckon a political creed their special care, and if that creed be socialism, pacifism, republicanism, the persons holding such creeds may be regulated out of the way, although never deed was done or word uttered by them that could be charged as a crime. The inmost citadel of our liberties would be thus attacked. For, as Sir Erskine May observes, this is 'the greatest of all our liberties—liberty of opinion'."

Now, Sir, after these illuminating words of Lord Shaw, may I not say that the Government of the day by their recent acts have laid themselves open to the charge that they are reckoning political creed or creeds as their special care? And if that creed be socialism, or pacifism or communism then of course the persons holding such creeds must be regulated out of the way, whether the Defence of India Act or the Rules apply to them or not. Sir, since the promulgation of the Defence of India Ordinance, which has now been turned into an Act, and the promulgation of Rules made thereunder, this province has made protest after protest against these measures, but up till now those protests have gone in vain. Only yesterday we had a meeting of the citizens of Calcutta which would have appeared to any person who considers himself to be a public man the climax of those protests. Sir, personally, I do not consider it to be the climax of our protests, because I feel that unless this Act and the Rules made thereunder are considered by the Government of the day as a dead letter, I, as Leader of

the Congress Party in this House and of the members on this side of the House, should go out of this House to disobey the Act and the Rules made thereunder and submit to imprisonment. I desire to warn the Government that they stand before the bar of history and that all the pomp and glitter and circumstance of their position will avail them not when they stand before the bar of history, and that if they do not by their acts and conduct make the Defence of India Act and the Rules made thereunder a dead letter, then this side of the House will see to it that it becomes a dead letter just as the Rowlatt Act became a dead letter in this country. The protests which we have recorded and the protests that we propose to record day after day, week after week, month after month, are protests which will not be recovered merely by the Congress Party. Those who do not dwell with us in the same house, those who do not worship with us in the same temple, those who do not profess the same political creed will all join us in those protests. We desire to impress upon the Government at this stage before matters go further that they had better be forewarned. If taking shelter under the letter of the law and breaking its spirit they extern innocent and peaceful citizens whose only crime is that they are labour workers, whose only crime is that they are socialists or pacifists or communists, we desire to tell them in all seriousness and with the utmost sense of responsibility that the day is not far distant when they will have to rue the acts which they have committed to-day. Sir, I desire to speak as Leader of the Congress Party and with the support, I believe, of the majority of the Opposition to my left, I desire to say in all seriousness and, I may add, with all humility, that if the Government do not retrace their steps, we shall again consider British jails to be places of pilgrimage for us. If the rights of the citizens of Calcutta and of the province, which should be the special care of the Government of the day, are not safeguarded—if those rights are trampled under foot—we do not mean to sit quiet We mean to emulate the example of that great American who turned the vote of the American Convention when the American Convention was deciding whether there was to be a war or no war. We shall try to emulate in our own humble way the example of that great American, Patrick Henry, who said when addressing the American Convention "Give me liberty or give me death." (Loud applause from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Speaker——

Mr. SPEAKER: I now call upon Sir Nazimuddin to reply, as there is hardly much time for the debate to close.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, it is now about 7-40 p.m. and the adjournment motion comes to an end at 8-20 p.m., so I submit that Mr. Siddiqi may be allowed to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: I know that. You will no doubt take a considerable time to reply and after that I have kept 10 minutes for the division as there is no doubt that a division will be claimed.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: May I point out, Sir, that some time may be found for Mr. Siddiqi?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Mr. Shahabuddin, you may remember that when I asked you to suggest names of speakers from your side you suggested some names. When after consulting you I found that none of them were going to speak, thereafter I called on Mr. Bose to speak. So I am afraid that at this stage I cannot grant your request. Sir Nazimuddin.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, before I deal with the motion and reply to the real motion, I would like to reply to the speech of Sri Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty. Sir, Sri Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty is in the habit of delivering speeches and making attacks almost of a personal character, and I have replied to him more than once, and I will do it again and later on if he continues such speeches then I will treat them with the contempt that they deserve. Let me tell Sri Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty, let me reply to him in the words of a verse written by a very famous author, which is as follows:—

سچ کہدوں اے برہمن گر تو بُرا نہ مانے
ترے صنم کدے کے بُت ہو گئے پُرانے

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Please render it in Bengali.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I knew that you would not be able to understand this language and that is why——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Well, I have no business to understand this language.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: And that is why your demand for nationalism and a national India falls to the ground.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: Why don't you translate it into Bengali?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: You are not Bengalees, but you are Indians.

(There was a great uproar at this stage.)

(Cries of "Urdu is not the national language of India.")

Those theories and those ideals are no longer there, and it is time that Sri Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty woke up and not act like Rip Van Winkle. He ought to know that there is such a thing as the Muslim League, there is the creed of the Muslim League and there is the demand of the Muslim League, and until and unless those demands are met these appeals, these taunts about nationalism will fall on deaf ears. Let me tell Sri Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty that the Muslims are no longer the gullible tools that they have been so long They are not going to be led into the trap——

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Sir, may I rise on a point of order? Is the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin now speaking as a Member of the Government or a Muslim Leaguer?

(Cries of "Both.")

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Those words and those appeals about nationalism and domination by a foreign power will not do. Until and unless the demands of the Muslims are given in by the so-called nationalists, the Muslims will certainly see that there is no advance made in the Constitution.

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: May I enquire, Sir, what this has got to do with the Defence of India Rules?

(Great uproar at this stage again.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Your point of order would have been legitimate, but I am afraid that the speeches of Babu Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty and the Leader of the Opposition and others have proceeded on the basis that the whole act of Government is an anti-national and a slave act And as such Sir Nazimuddin is perfectly entitled to say all that he has said.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: May I point out, Sir, that you have entirely misinterpreted and misunderstood my speech?

Mr. SPEAKER: I was not saying only of yours but of some others.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: I should be very much beholden to you if you could point out any portion of my speech which could be construed as being of that description.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমি ব্যক্তিগত কিছু কৈফিয়েত দিতে চাই। আমার বক্তৃতায় মুসলমান জাতি সম্বন্ধে কোন কিছু generalise করি নাই। কাজেই ওঁর এখানে মুসলমানদের বিষয় উল্লেখ করে কোন কথা বলবার ওঁর অধিকার আছে বলে আমি মনে করি না।

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not responsible for the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin's speech. All that I am concerned with is to see whether it is relevant or not. Your statement was that the act of Government was that of a slave and that of an anti-nationalist. He says, "I don't choose to be a nationalist." That is his answer. And I cannot help it.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir——

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: May I draw your attention to the fact that the question under discussion is a general one? How does the question of Muslims or Hindus come in? The Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin is speaking here as a Home Minister. He is not an exponent of the Muslim League. I am myself a Muslim. (Cries of "No! No!" from the Coalition Benches.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin has replied sufficiently to the general question. Will he kindly come to the subject under discussion now?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Without your request, I was coming to the subject. I have made my protest and that is enough. Before I deal with the other speakers——

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKER: Speak as a zamindar!

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: If I am provoked, I know how to reply to the honourable gentleman

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: We know what your position is.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: You have no position.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I ask the side to my right to remain absolutely silent?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I will now deal with the speech of the Leader of the Opposition. I think that there would have been a great point in the appeal that he made, in the challenge

that he threw out, in the demand that he made and in the condemnation which he poured on this Government if he had done this four months ago, when the Congress Governments were in power and when they were using the rules of the Defence of India Act and the Defence of India Ordinances on every occasion.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: It is a lie. They never did that.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJI: Sir ...

Mr. SPEAKER: If you want to make a statement, you may do so when you get your opportunity. This is a reply which the Hon'ble Minister is making. It is impossible to carry on unless the Hon'ble Minister is allowed a patient hearing.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Truth is always unpleasant. If you will only listen, I will come to the facts of the case. (A MEMBER: Nobody will listen to nonsense.)

In Lucknow, Khaksar arrests were made under the Defence of India Rules and Defence of India Ordinances. Therefore as long as the honourable Leader of the Opposition is a member of the Congress, I am sure this challenge of his is rather out of place and out of time.

Now, Sir, I want to deal with another point before I take up the subject and that is about Mr. Muzaffar Ahmad and his being arrested and then being let off without being prosecuted, thereby assuming that he was absolutely innocent. Actually a number of prohibited publications and proscribed publications were seized when his house was searched.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: On a point of order, Sir. Is the Hon'ble Minister entitled to cast any reflections on a court of law after the court has discharged the accused?

Mr. SPEAKER: It may be that a man may be acquitted in spite of certain documents in his possession.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: They do not establish any guilt whatsoever.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Government did not press this charge because they were content with externing him, at the same time keeping the charge against him. Otherwise it would have meant his remaining in Calcutta.

As regards the serious inconvenience caused because of the short notice and because of the fact that they were confined to their rooms and not allowed to go out and make any arrangements, there is only one thing I have got to say and that is that if these people had made any representations asking for further time or for facilities to go out and make arrangements Government would have permitted them under certain conditions. (Cries of "Oh! Oh!" from the Congress and other Opposition Benches.)

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: May I rise to a point of order? When our friends of the Opposition were speaking, I think I can claim without any fear of contradiction that the members of the Coalition Party here never raised a single word. They never interrupted the speakers because we all thought that the matter that was being discussed was a very serious one and had to be discussed from the point of view whether really the liberty of the subjects had been interfered with by any unjustifiable action on the part of Government

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is it a speech or a point of order?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I can also interrupt like that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Sanyal, may I draw your attention to one thing that when a point of order is being raised, courtesy demands that you should not interrupt the Hon'ble the Chief Minister till he has finised?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I wish to point out to my friends of the Opposition that no useful purpose will be served——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry. You must confine yourself to the point of order.

(On the Hon'ble the Chief Minister resuming his seat, there were cries from all sides of the House.)

After all, if this is the way in which you are demonstrating your fitness for parliamentary life that when a member representing an opposite point of view speaks in this House, either from this side or from the other side, he is not given even a hearing, then I am afraid it is a great condemnation of the system. I hope you will realise that no parliamentary government can function unless both sides give attention to each other with a courtesy that it demands. I hope there will be no more interruption.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That explains the thing. There was no attempt made by anybody to ask for further time. If a representation had been made to Government, they could have granted permission under certain conditions.

Now, Sir, I come to the main point. I think it is unfortunate that there were very few speakers who did come to the main issue. But one or two of them did and they chiefly based their opposition on the ground that Government took this action against these people merely with the idea of stifling the labour movement and because they apprehended that there would be serious riots in the coming Calcutta Corporation elections. These arguments that have been put forward are so childish that one would not pay ordinarily any serious importance to them. But what I am surprised at is that a number of speakers who have spoken from the other side of the House have never mentioned anything about the activities of persons who have been publishing leaflets, unauthorised leaflets, who have been placarding the walls of educational institutions, mills and other places with posters, anti-war posters, and of people who are continuously moving about trying to foment trouble and create disturbances. Who are these people? Who are doing this? (Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Agent provocateurs.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I hope you will realise that if you have got to reply to it, this is not the occasion to do so. You have to take the opportunity at the next budget discussion to give reply categorically to Sir Nazimuddin unless of course there are exigencies in which I might permit a special opportunity.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Sir, may I through you request the Hon'ble Minister not to address questions to this side of the House?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, am I not entitled to address the House according to the parliamentary practice? I am surprised at this remark from the Leader of the Opposition.

It cannot be denied that hundreds and thousands of leaflets are being distributed not only in mill areas, not only in Calcutta, but also in certain rural areas. (Cries of "Question! Question!" from the Opposition Benches.) Now, Sir, it is well known, it may be denied in this House, as the honourable members are honourable members, I assume that certainly they are ignorant of it, but let me tell them that those people who are distributing these leaflets, those people who are active—they will simply laugh at the ignorance of the honourable members opposite——

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Will the Hon'ble Home Minister place evidence before the House?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Sir, can the Leader of the Opposition interrupt the Hon'ble Home Minister in this way?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Do not be an apologist for everybody——

Mr. SPEAKER: I think I should expect better parliamentary method. All I say is that in a debate of this character if there is to be any interruption, it should be by the Leader of the Opposition, if at all, and the reply can be given by the Hon'ble Home Minister, otherwise the consequence will be just what we are trying to avoid.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, it is well known to those who are active, well known to those people who are members of the communist party that their deliberate aim and object is to create difficulties, to create disturbances, to create disaffection with the ultimate aim of bringing about mass revolution. Sir, I have said this to the House once before. There is no question of there being any doubt about this. There are people who have said so in speeches about the war - they are persons who profess to be communists, they are persons who profess to have communistic ideas. And what is more let me read from one of the papers which is being circulated surreptitiously by the name of "Communist." This is what appeared in "Communist" of November, 1939, and I am sure this will interest the honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: May I ask the Hon'ble Home Minister, who circulated that?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: All our anti-war activities——

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Sir, may I have an answer to my question?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have allowed you latitude and it is for the Hon'ble Minister to reply to your question or not.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: These things are being done surreptitiously by the members of the communist party——

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Their names please?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: "All our anti-war activities to-day, viz., protest strikes, local anti-war actions, demonstrations, mass distribution of literature, anti-war propaganda, must

have as their main object the creation of such a powerful anti-war sentiment among the people in general and the mass of Congressmen in particular as would move the Congress itself towards the struggle."

Then it goes on to say—"The present stalemate between the Government of India and the Congress can only be broken by patient and systematic anti-war propaganda, frequent and widespread anti-war strikes, demonstrations, exposure of imperialist lies about the democratic character of the present war

To give proletarian impress to the national struggle, independent class action of the proletariat will be one of the most indispensable and powerful weapons. Mass anti-war strikes by the working classes, anti-war rallies and demonstrations would bring the working classes before the mass as the most uncompromising opponent of imperialist war, and most insistent fighter for national freedom. Such actions will be possible only by intensive political agitation among the working classes through street-corner meetings, hand-bills exposing the real character of the war and making the working classes conscious of its rôle and tasks and confining proletariat action only to struggle for economic demands, higher wages in view of rise in prices, etc., would mean renouncing the task of making a bold bid for proletarian leadership in the political struggle ahead"

The last portion runs thus "The party must develop methods to activise and train a large mass of class conscious workers and peasants who generally follow the lead of the party, organise them into auxiliary groups for distribution of illegal literature and into shock troops for carrying out mass political actions such as protest strikes, give them political training and thus broaden the effective mass basis of the party among the workers and the toiling masses."

(The Hon'ble Minister here reached the time-limit.)

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I have had too many interruptions. So I would ask for a little more time.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have taken that into consideration.

The motion that the House do now adjourn was then put and a division taken with the following result —

AYES—76.

Abdul Jabbar Paiwan, Mr. Md.
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Azimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Banerji, Mr. Satya Priya.
Banerjee, Mr. Sibnath.
Barma, Babu Premhari.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Bhowmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Bose, Mr. Sarat Chandra.
Chakraborty, Babu Narendra Narayan.
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada.
Chaudhuri, Rai Narendra Nath.

Das, Babu Makim Chandra.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das, Mr. Monmohan.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Dolui Mr. Harendra Nath.
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar.
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira.
Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Ganguly, Mr. Pratul Chandra.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Goswami, Mr. Tulsi Chandra.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed
Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed.
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari.
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra.
Mandal, Mr Amrita Lal.
Mandal, Mr. Jogendra Nath.
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hosain, Mr.
Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad.
Mukerji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan.
Mukerjee, Mr. B.
Mukherji, Dr. Sarat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra.
Naushar Ali Mr. Syed.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy. Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna.
Roy, Mr. Kishori Pati.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Sen, Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra.
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr. M.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan.
Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar.
Thakur, Mr. Pramatha Ranjan.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.

NOES—102.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdulla-al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.
Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Sahib Maulvi S.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abidur Reza Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi.
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Aftab Ali, Mr.
Aftab Hosain Joardar, Maulvi.
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hosain, Mr.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Anwarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md.
Ashrafali, Mr. M.
Aulad Hossain Khan, Maulvi.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Badrudduja, Mr. Syed.
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Bell-Hart, Miss. P. B.
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Mr. Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Edbar, Mr. Upendranath.
Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M.
Farhut Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr (Mymensingh).
Gomes, Mr. S. A
Griffiths, Mr. C.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Khan of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib.
Hasanuzzaman, Maulvi Md.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Haywood, Mr. Rogers.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed.
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
McGregor, Mr. G. G.
Mafizuddin Choudhury, Maulvi.
Maguire, Mr. L. T.
Mahtab, Maharajkumar Udday Chand.
Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Masud Ali Khan Panni, Maulvi.
Millar, Mr. C.
Mohsen Ali, Mr. Md.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Sahib Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.

Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Solaiman, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary.
Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srishchandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nazarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khawaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Noorudin, Mr. K.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Roy, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sahabe Alum, Mr Syed.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sanaullah, Al-Haj Maulana Dr.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khawaja, C.B.E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Steven, Mr. J. W. R.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Walker, Mr W. A. M.
Whitehead, Mr R B
Yousuf Mirza.

The Ayes being 76 and the Noes 102, the motion was lost.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it will be useless to go on with our non-official Bills to-day We meet on Wednesday at 4-45 p m

Adjournment.

It being 8-12 p m

The House was adjourned till 4-45 p m on Wednesday, the 21st February, 1940, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 21st February, 1940, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 223 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Election of Chairman of Dacca Municipality.

*25. **Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government issued any instruction, oral or written, or through their Chief Whip in the Lower House, to the nominated members of the Dacca Municipality, especially to the Civil Surgeon and the City Superintendent of Police to exercise their votes in favour of a particular candidate for Chairmanship of that Municipality;

(b) whether those nominated members were called by the Chief Minister and Minister in charge of Local Self-Government while they were at Dacca just before the last election of the Chairmanship and were instructed to vote for a particular candidate, and

(c) whether the said Ministers ordered the District Magistrate of Dacca to instruct the nominated members to cast their votes in favour of a particular candidate?

MINISTER in charge of the LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (a) No.

(b) I exchanged views with nominated and other members of the municipality but no instructions were given to them.

(c) No.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*b*) where the Hon'ble Minister says that he exchanged views with the nominated and other members of the municipality just on the eve of the election of Chairman, will he please state what he exchanged his views about?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: The honourable member is aware that I come from Dacca which is my constituency. That being so, I have every right as a member to consult the opinion of the people of Dacca in regard to municipal elections, and, as such, I asked them as to what they were going to do in the matter.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Do I understand the Hon'ble Minister to say that he exchanged views really with a view to influence the election in any way?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I have already stated that I exchanged views not to influence the elections but as a member of Dacca in this House as to what the people of Dacca were going to do in these elections.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: May I know, Sir, in regard to what he exchanged views about the election?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Yes, what else?

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the views expressed by the nominated and other members?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in course of exchange of views he expressed his own opinion about any particular candidate?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I cannot say that offhand; I might have said about my own personal opinion.

Strikes occurring during 1939 in Bengal.

*26. **Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state how many labour strikes took place in Bengal during January to October, 1939?

(*b*) How many of these strikes were—

(*i*) ordinary; and

(*ii*) stay-in?

(*c*) In how many of these cases there was—

(*i*) *lathi* charge,

(*ii*) firing; and

(*iii*) use of tear gas?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) 122 including 6 begun in 1938.

(*b*) (*i*) 108 including 5 begun in 1938

(*ii*) 14 including 1 begun in 1938

(*c*) (*i*) Two.

(*ii*) One.

(*iii*) Nil.

Transfer of lands colonised by Burmese settlers in Bakarganj.

*27. **Mr. B. MUKHERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state

(*i*) whether any regulation is in force for the last 20 or 25 years in the several *mouzas* colonised by Burmese settlers in the Amtali police-station in the district of Bakarganj; and

(*ii*) whether the regulation forbids any transfer of land by sale or otherwise to persons other than Burmese except upon decree sales?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the operation of this regulation causes difficulty to the Burmese settlers in the disposal of their lands by sale; and

(*ii*) that they have lost a considerable portion of their holdings for the existence of the bar on transfer of land?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, do the Government contemplate the repeal of the said regulation?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) The restriction on transfer of land referred to has been imposed by section 49A of the Bengal Tenancy Act on Maghs in Bakarganj district and not by any regulation.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes. But section 49F of the Bengal Tenancy Act sufficiently provides for cases where transfer is necessary in the interest of the Maghs.

(*ii*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Report on the enquiry into incidence of rents in khas mahals and temporarily-settled estates.

***28. Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware

(*i*) that Mr. Stuart was appointed Special Officer for making enquiries as to the incidence of rents in *khas mahals* and temporarily-settled estates in Bengal; and

(*ii*) that the said Officer has submitted a report about a year ago with recommendations for reduction of rents in *khas mahals* and temporarily-settled estates of Bakarganj and some other districts?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any reduction of rent has been effected as the result of recommendation made by the aforesaid Officer?

(*c*) If not, are the Government considering the desirability of reducing the rent in *khas mahals* and temporarily-settled estates?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Orders have been issued for reduction of rents in some cases.

(*c*) The whole question is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in all cases recommended by Mr. Stuart, orders have been issued for reduction of rents or in selected cases only?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I have mentioned "some cases".

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for not issuing such orders in all cases but only in some selected cases?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The whole question is under consideration of Government, and only in those cases where Government considered immediate relief necessary, they issued instructions.

Recruitment of Assistant Surgeons this year.

***29. Maulvi MOSLEM ALI MOLLAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) how many Assistant Surgeons have been recruited this year;

(*ii*) their names, age, qualifications, experiences and native districts;

(*iii*) how many years each of them took in the Medical College to obtain the M.B. degree; and

(*iv*) in how many chances each of them passed the M.B. Final Examination?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be also pleased to furnish another statement showing the particulars asked for in (*a*) (*ii*), (*iii*) and (*iv*) with regard to the candidates who were interviewed in connection with the said appointments?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): Applications were made to the Public Service Commission and recruitments were made on the recommendation of the Commission which interviewed the candidates. The information required by the honourable members is not available with Government.

Successful candidates from Dacca Medical School.

***30. Mr. DHANANJOY ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing, year by year, since 1934—

(*i*) the total number of students in the fourth year class of the Dacca Medical School;

(*ii*) how many of them were allowed to appear in the Final Examination;

(*iii*) how many of them were regular; and

(*iv*) the total number of successful candidates?

(*b*) If the number of successful candidates is not adequate, do the Government contemplate an enquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) No.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 30, regarding the number of students and passes in the Dacca Medical School.

Session.	Total number of students in the 4th year class.	Number of students allowed to appear in the Final Examination.		Number of successful candidates
		Regular.	Irregular.	
1	2	3	4	5
May, 1934 .	79	29	43	34
November, 1934	73	17	37	28
May, 1935	79	35	28	24
November, 1935 .	92	32	40	36
May, 1936 .	91	47	35	37
November, 1936 .	84	32	47	32
May, 1937 ..	89	23	37	25
November, 1937 ..	98	35	45	24
May, 1938 ..	109	51	51	33
November, 1938 ..	102	13	67	26
May, 1939 ..	103	40	50	32

Recovery of advances taken from Contributory Provident Funds.

***31. Mr. SURENDRANATH BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether there is a rule to recover advances taken from Contributory Provident Funds by copyists of Civil Courts when after such recovery a sum of Rs. 25 or more of a copyist's remuneration is still left over?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, has the District Judge of Faridpur recently ordered the non-recovery of advance taken from the Contributory Provident Fund by a copyist when more than Rs. 25 of that copyist's remuneration would have been left over, if the recovery in question were made?

(*c*) If so, what action, if any, do the Government propose to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, as a special case for one month only.

(*c*) The matter is under consideration. I have received further news that the amount has since been realised.

***32. Mr. P. BANERJI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether there is a rule for the recovery of advances taken from Contributory Provident Funds by copyists of Civil Courts when after such recovery a sum of Rs. 25 or more of a copyist's remuneration is still left over.

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether the District Judge, Faridpur, recently ordered the non-recovery of advance taken from the Contributory Provident Fund by a Muhammadan copyist when more than Rs. 25 of that copyist's remuneration would have been left over, if the recovery in question were made?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, what action do the Government propose to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Please refer to the answer given above to a similar question put by Mr. Surendranath Biswas.

Control of prices of goods by Government.

***33. Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any steps have been taken to control the price of goods in Bengal during the war time; and

(*b*) if so, what special arrangements have been made to give effect to such orders in the muffassal?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) Soon after the outbreak of war Government decided to regulate the prices of the principal items of foodstuffs, medicines, medical supplies, salt, kerosene oil and cheaper varieties of cloth. A Controller of Prices with an Advisory Council was appointed to fix from time to time the prices of these commodities, both wholesale and retail, consistently with the prevailing conditions of internal and external trade.

In regard to other commodities, the dealers were warned against raising prices not warranted by economic considerations, and, if any of these was subjected to gross profiteering Government would take steps to check such profiteering.

(*b*) The District Magistrates have been appointed Controllers of Prices in their respective districts. They have been authorised to appoint Advisory Committees, and to control the prices on the advice of that Committee, and in consultation with the Provincial Controller of Prices.

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in what districts Advisory Committees have been formed?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: So far as I am aware, they have been formed in all the districts where there are District Magistrates.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in all cases the advice of the Advisory Committee is taken before Government comes to any decision regarding the particular price or prices to be controlled?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: So far as I am aware, that is so. The Advisory Committee has also laid down certain general principles.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the recent notifications published regarding certain commodities have been placed before any Advisory Committee; if so, when?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Is the honourable member referring to the weekly list of prices of commodities?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I mean the notifications regarding price control.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have not got any answer for that. Before assuming that a notification has been published, you have to ask him that first.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the first part of my question is as to whether any notifications were issued when Advisory Committees were started. And the second part of my question is whether the notifications recently issued have been placed before Advisory Committees in all cases; that includes the first part.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I do not quite follow your logic. First you have to ask whether any notification has been issued recently.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All right, Sir. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any notification has been issued during January and February relating to the control of prices of certain commodities?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It is very difficult for me to answer this question. If the honourable member will please refer me to any particular notification, I shall be very happy to give him any information that he wants.

Trade disputes in Bengal.

***34. Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state how many trade disputes occurred in Bengal ever since the introduction of provincial autonomy?

(*b*) How many of these did the Government refer to a—

(*i*) Court of inquiry; and

(*ii*) Board of Conciliation?

(*c*) Who were the members of such Courts or Boards?

(*d*) What were the results of such references?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) It is difficult to say how many trade disputes occurred in Bengal, but there were 410 cases of cessation of work.

(*b*) (*i*) Board of Conciliation—2 and (*ii*) Court of Inquiry—1.

(*c*) The composition of the Boards was as follows:—

Board of Conciliation.

(1) Raniganj Pottery Works dispute—Mr. A. Hughes, I.C.S. (Sole Member).

(2) Hirapur and Kulti Iron Works dispute—Mr. T. H. Ellis, I.C.S. (President).

(3) Mr. K. C. Mahindra and Mr. M. Homi (Members).

Court of Inquiry.

New Central Jute Mills (Howrah) dispute—Mr. B. N. Chakravarty, I.C.S. (Sole Member).

(*d*) The honourable member is referred to the reports of the Boards which appeared in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 16th February, 1939, and the 20th April, 1939.

The enquiry by the Court of Inquiry is proceeding.

Remission of interest on arrear rents in Patiladah Estate in Mymensingh.

*35. **Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware that the permanently-settled estate Patiladah in the district of Mymensingh has been made over to Court of Wards this year?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that arrears of rent are being realised from *raiyats* of that estate with interest; and

(*ii*) if so, what action does he propose to take in the matter of realisation of interest on arrear rents?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that current as well as arrear rents have been remitted to a considerable extent in Madras and some other provinces for the last few years on account of economic crisis?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government contemplate to take similar action in this province?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*), (*b*) (*i*) and (*c*) Yes

(*ii*) This is quite in accordance with the provisions of law and calls for no action.

(*d*) No.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why in the case of other Court of Wards Estates in the district of Rangpur, remission of interest is granted while in the Patiladah estate this remission is not granted? There certainly should be some reason for this differential treatment.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, it depends on the merit of each case. Government do not propose to pass any general order for remission of interest, but where it is in the interest of collection, or in the interest of tenants to remit interest the Collectors have full discretion to give such relief in such cases.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that Patiladah estate and the Cossimbazar estate are two contiguous estates, but whereas the Cossimbazar estate is granting this remission, this estate is not?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It may be so, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether he is aware that the Court of Wards is realising interest at current rates for default in instalments?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise at the present moment.

Regulation of price of dye-stuffs and chemicals.

***36. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department aware that on account of the abnormal rise in price of the dye-stuffs and chemicals the interests of the hand-loom industry in Bengal have been seriously hard hit?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the approximate number of weavers relying upon the hand-loom industry in Bengal, district by district?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the price of dye-stuffs and chemicals has not been regulated?

(*d*) If the answer to clause (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister state the reason for not regulating the price?

(*e*) Do the Government consider the desirability of immediately regulating the price of dye-stuffs and chemicals?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) It must have been affected.

(*b*) I have no information.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) and (*e*) These articles are mostly, if not wholly, imported. Cessation of German imports has seriously affected the quantity available for sale. It has yet to be seen to what extent the lack of German imports can be made up by other dyes. In the meantime the position is being examined, and a watch is kept that there is no gross profiteering.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether any attempts have been made by Government to make up for the lack of German dyes by other dyes?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise in this department.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Does it relate to the Industries Department, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes; so you can put your question to that department.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: But, Sir, my question arises out of this.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, I am afraid it does not.

Grants to Roygram Lalchand Charitable Dispensary.

***37. Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Medical Department aware that the late Babu Prasanna Kumar Ghose in Jessore established the Roygram Lalchand Charitable Dispensary in January, 1903, with some definite assurance received from the then Under Secretary of the Government of Bengal?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the nature, terms and conditions of the assurance whereupon the charitable dispensary was started?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Government of Bengal, in its letter of 13th October, 1902, gave a definite understanding that the District Board will supplement the fund if at any time it proved to be insufficient?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the annual grant of the District Board from the years 1903 to 1938, respectively?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that the Roygram Lalchand Charitable Dispensary is the only institution of that nature within the area containing a population of more or less 25,000; and

(*ii*) that the number of patients having been increased, the charitable dispensary is in need of financial help?

(*f*) If the answer to (*e*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of giving financial help to the institution?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*d*) Do not arise.

(*c*) In connection with the creation of a trust, Government accepted the estimates of the cost for the maintenance of the dispensary on the understanding that the District Board would supplement the annual income if at any time it proved to be insufficient.

(*e*)(*i*) No. The population which depends on this institution for medical relief numbers about 10,000.

(*ii*) The number of patients attending the dispensary has not, of late, shown any increase. Any representation for financial help sent through the proper channel will be duly considered on its merits.

(*f*) Does not arise.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state why he has omitted to give any reply to my question (*d*)? He has said that the dispensary was started on the understanding that the district board would supplement the annual income if it proves to be insufficient So I maintain that this question of the annual grant does arise.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister has stated that (*b*) and (*d*) do not arise; anyway, if I had noticed your question in time, it would not have been allowed.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state why and from what time the undertaking of the district board has ceased to operate in giving financial help?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that the grant from the district board five years back was much more than what the dispensary is getting now?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Yes; I am aware of it.

Accommodation in Mitford Hospital at Dacca.

*38. **Mr. DHANANJOY ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(i) how many patients were refused admission for want of accommodation into the Dacca Mitford Hospital for the last two years; and

(*ii*) how many patients were allowed admission by temporary arrangement during the period?

(*b*) Is it a fact that owing to rush of patients seeking admission, the poor and helpless patients very seldom get admission?

(*c*) If so, what immediate steps are being taken by the Government to remove the grievances of the suffering public?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) The information is not available as the patients who had to be refused admission at the first attendance for want of accommodation were in most cases subsequently admitted when beds became available. Twenty-five additional beds per day on an average were maintained for admission of extra patients.

(*b*) No. The poor and the helpless among the waiting patients are given preference.

(*c*) Twenty-five extra beds on an average are being maintained for the purpose.

Silting up of river Damodar near Pirojpur in Bakarganj.

*39. **Mr. UPENDRA NATH EDBAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(*i*) that the river Damodar running by the side of the Pirojpur town in the district of Bakarganj has been almost silted up;

(*ii*) that no boat can pass through the river during the ebb-tide; and

(*iii*) that toll offices have been stationed at both mouths of the river Damodar to realise toll?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps he proposes to take to remove the aforesaid grievances?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*)(*i*) and (*ii*) I am informed that the river has silted up at some places and becomes unnavigable at ebb-tide during the winter season only.

(*iii*) Tolls are collected by the District Board, Bakarganj, at the two ends of the river.

(*b*) I understand that an estimate for silt-clearance is being prepared by the District Board.

Floods at Bilballi areas in 24-Parganas.

***40. Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department been drawn to the fact—

(*i*) that water from the Sonai river having no outlet enters lands of the local peasants in the Satkhira, Kalaroa (within Khulna district) and Swarupnagar and Bilballi areas (24-Parganas) and destroys their crops year after year;

(*ii*) that the conditions of the locality have thus been aggravated within the last year and the current year;

(*iii*) that the peasants affected in the Swarupnagar and Bilballi areas have been praying for—

(1) remission of rents and revenue for the year,

(2) grant of agricultural loan, and

(3) the remission of the old agricultural loans given to them; and

(*iv*) that pressure is being still put on the peasants for the payment of the rents and revenues?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has received any representations from the people of Swarupnagar and Bilballi for joining the Sonai river and Ichamati river by a canal in order to drain off the waters?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he proposes to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) (*i*) to (*iii*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*iv*) Some lands in the area have been affected this year and enquiries are being made with a view to remission of rents. But part of the area has had a satisfactory crop and tenants in that part are expected to pay their rents as usual.

(*c*) The matter is under investigation.

Silting up of the mouth of the river Dakatia in Noakhali.

*41. **Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department aware—

(*i*) that the mouth of the river Dakatia in the Noakhali district has almost been silted up, causing obstruction to the free passage of surplus water through the river Dakatia into the Meghna during the rains;

(*ii*) that floods occur in a large area of Raipur, Ramganj and Lakshmipur thanas in the Noakhali district;

(*iii*) that floods visited the areas mentioned in 1938 and also in 1939; and

(*iv*) that there are apprehensions of such floods annually?

(*b*) If the answers to (*a*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have taken up the matter and formulated any scheme for removing the silt?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Noakhali District Board have submitted a scheme in the matter for sanction of the Government?

(*d*) If so, do the Government contemplate sanctioning the scheme and rendering financial help to the execution of the scheme?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) (*i*), (*ii*), (*iv*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*iii*) Yes, in 1938.

(*b*) The matter is under investigation.

(*d*) The scheme is being examined and no assurance can be given at this stage.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us when the scheme by the Noakhali District Board was submitted to the Government?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I want notice.

Setting up of khatans in certain police-station areas in Murshidabad.

*42. **Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many *khatans* (fixtures placed across waterways for holding fish) are usually set up every year and at whose instance, within the police-station areas of Beldanga, Nowada, Hariharpara and Berhampore town of the Sadar subdivision of the district of Murshidabad;

(*ii*) whether these *khatans* obstruct traffic over waterways which are the only means of communication during the rainy season;

(*iii*) whether the said *khatans* obstruct the free draining out of flood and rain water from vast areas of culturable lands thereby preventing the timely sowing of *Chaitali* crops; and

(*iv*) whether during the floods of the last year the Hon'ble Revenue Minister was approached direct by numerous peasants and agriculturists as also by M.L.As. for removal of these *khatans* whereupon instructions were given to District Officers?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that zemindars interested in *khatans* revived their efforts for establishing *khatans* this year also?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what steps the Government have taken for dealing with the matter; and

(*ii*) whether Government contemplate taking any measure for effectively and permanently dealing with the evils arising out of such *khatans* in general?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) (*i*) I am informed that about 105 *khatans* are usually set up every year at the instance of zemindars, the District Board, the Local Board and *ejardars* in the Nowada and Hariharpara police-stations but not in Beldanga and Berhampore town.

(*ii*) The *khatans* placed in Nowada obstruct traffic over waterways but in Hariharpara the owners of the *khatans* usually arrange for the prompt passage of boats.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) The tenants of Nowada police-station requested my hon'ble colleague at Amtala to secure the removal of these *khatans*. *Khatans* placed in Hariharpara and Nowada have all been removed.

(*b*) Yes, in Nowada police-station.

(*c*) (*i*) Prosecutions were started in six cases of obstruction in Nowada police-station, but were subsequently withdrawn.

(*ii*) At present I do not think that it is necessary to supplement the provisions of section 76 of the Embankment Act.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken or any instructions given by the district authorities with a view to preventing the setting up of these obstructive khatans?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I do not think it is necessary in view of what I have already stated. The departmental staff has however been instructed to see that all such obstructions caused for the purpose of fishing are removed.

Sinking of tube wells under rural reconstruction scheme in Noakhali.

*43. **Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health Department be pleased to make a statement regarding the following particulars with respect to the Noakhali district:—

(*i*) the amount allotted this year to the district for rural reconstruction;

(*ii*) the number of tube wells sanctioned for each subdivision of the district for water-supply;

(*iii*) the names of the contractors in each subdivision and the number of tube wells allotted to each of the contractors; and

(*iv*) the number of tube wells completed according to the contract in each subdivision?

(*b*) Is it a fact that a representation was made to the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division to the effect that a large number of tube wells were allotted to one "Bethumia" *alias* Azizul Hoque and that this particular contractor withdrew a large sum before the completion of the tube wells according to the terms of contract and that the Commissioner found the allegations to be true?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of taking steps against the persons and officials involved in the affairs?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) (*i*) to (*iii*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*iv*) No tube well has yet been sunk in any subdivision.

(*b*) No such representation appears to have been received by the Commissioner.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) (i) to (iii) of starred question No. 43.

(i) Rs. 18,184.

(ii) 158 tube wells for the Sadar and 65 tube wells for the Feni subdivision.

	Tube wells.
(iii) Sadar subdivision—	
(1) Messrs. Luxmi Narayan and Company ..	47
(2) Hazi Abdul Kader and Company ..	53
(3) Ramani Mohan De, Contractor ...	19
(4) Fazlal Hoque, Contractor ...	11
(5) Ayabali, Contractor ...	9
(6) Serajul Hoque and Company ...	19
Total ...	158
Feni subdivision—	
(1) Golam Hossain ...	37
(2) Mohendra Kumar De ...	18
(3) Abdul Hoque ..	10
Total ...	65

Mr. HARENDRA KUMAR SUR: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if any sum was advanced to the contractors in that very subdivision?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I am not aware of what the honourable member states.

Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Natore Local Board.

*44. **Mr. SURENDRA MOHAN MAITRA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state when—

(i) the last election of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Natore Local Board in the district of Rajshahi; and

(*ii*) the last election of District Board members from amongst the members of the said Natore Local Board,

took place?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that the local Subdivisional Officer participated in the election;

(*ii*) that on the date of election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Local Board, some members of the Local Board stayed in the Subdivisional Officer's bungalow from morning till fifteen minutes before the election;

(*iii*) that those members came to the place of election direct from the Subdivisional Officer's bungalow; and

(*iv*) that the Subdivisional Officer approached some members of the Legislative Assembly of the Coalition Party in connection with the party formed by the Subdivisional Officer?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) (*i*) 8th of September, 1939.

(*ii*) 7th of October, 1939.

(*b*) (*i*), (*ii*) and (*iv*) No.

(*iii*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Defective arrangements and insanitary conditions of the Dum Dum Central Jail.

27. Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department aware—

(*i*) that the Dum Dum Central Jail suffers from certain defective arrangements and insanitary conditions;

(*ii*) that the Board of Visitors as well as the Superintendent of the Jail have repeatedly suggested to Government for their removal; and

(*iii*) that the works have not been undertaken?

(*b*) What are the improvements suggested respectively by the (1) Board of Visitors and (2) Superintendent of the Jail?

(*c*) Is it a fact that prisoners suffering from tuberculosis are accommodated in the same block and floor of the hospital building along with other patients?

(*d*) If so, what steps does he propose to take to discontinue the arrangement and prevent the spread of infection in the Jail Hospital?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*)(*i*) and (*ii*) I know that a number of proposals for improvement in the sanitary and other arrangements of the jail have been made by the Board of Visitors and the Superintendent.

(*iii*) Not all the proposals have as yet been given effect to.

(*b*) A statement is placed on the Library table.

(*c*) They are accommodated in a separate ward at one end of the hospital.

(*d*) The Inspector-General has under consideration the provision of better segregation.

Damages caused by flood at Sarishabari in Mymensingh.

28. Mr. AMRITA LAL MANDAL: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(*i*) that Sarishabari, an important jute trade centre in the Mymensingh district, has been washed away by the river Jamuna;

(*ii*) that it has caused a loss of several lakhs of rupees to this trading centre; and

(*iii*) that the course of the river changed its direction towards Sarishabari from a very long time?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action the Government took in the matter?

(*c*) If no action was taken, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefór?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Zemindar of Santosh and the people of the locality submitted a proposal to the Irrigation Department for the protection of the town?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the proposal was accepted? If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) (*i*) I am informed that the major portion of Sarishabari has been washed away.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) I understand that erosion began in 1936.

(*b*) and (*c*) No action was taken as it was considered that the cost of effective protective measures would be prohibitive.

(*d*) A request was made for expert investigation with a view to devising measures to prevent further erosion.

(*e*) A survey was made which confirmed the opinion referred to in my reply to parts (*b*) and (*c*).

"Alim" and "Fazil" examination centre in Chandpur.

29. Maulvi JONAB ALI MAJUMDAR: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(*i*) that there are a large number of recognised old scheme madrassahs in the district of Tippera;

(*ii*) that there is no centre of the "Alim" and "Fazil" examinations for the students of those madrassahs in the district;

(*iii*) that the candidates for the "Alim" and "Fazil" examinations from those madrassahs have to undergo much trouble and inconvenience to appear at the examination centres held in other districts; and

(*iv*) that the Secretary of the Association of old scheme madrassahs of Chandpur and Tippera has been drawing the attention of the proper authorities in the matter for the last few years?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of establishing a centre for the "Alim" and "Fazil" examinations at Chandpur from the next year?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*)(*i*) The number of such madrassahs in the district is six only.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) No. There is a centre for the Central Madrassah Examinations at Feni in Noakhali district. The distance from madrassahs in the district of Tippera to the proposed centre at Chandpur will not be much less than the distance to Feni.

(*iv*) No. An application for opening a centre at Chandpur was received for the first time in the year 1938 when it was too late to consider it as the Board's meeting was then over. A new centre will be

opened at Chandpur for the year 1940 as an experimental measure on condition that the Subdivisional Officer, Chandpur, takes the responsibility for conducting the examination.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Destruction of water-hyacinth in Bengal, specially in Burdwan district.

30. Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state what steps the Government have taken to destroy water-hyacinth in Bengal, specially in the district of Burdwan?

(*b*) Is it a fact that some Union Boards have not yet applied Union Board Manual Rule to remove water-hyacinth in spite of repeated appeal of the villagers?

(*c*) Do the Government contemplate taking immediate steps for the destruction of water-hyacinth in every part of Bengal?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) A vigorous drive for the clearance of the pest was organised during the Water-Hyacinth Week observed in April last as a result of which the water-hyacinth of a considerable area in the district was cleared. The work has since been continued under the active guidance and co-operation of the District, Subdivisional and Circle Officers. The Bengal Water-hyacinth Act, 1936, has been put into force in the district and suitable action thereunder is being taken.

(*b*) I am not aware of any specific provision for the clearing of water-hyacinth in the Union Board Manual. Perhaps the member refers to section 27 of the Village Self-Government Act. If so, I may say that this provision is being used in suitable cases. It is not, however, the intention that the general powers regarding sanitation and drainage, etc., given to Union Boards under the manual should be largely used for the clearance of water-hyacinth for which Government have enacted special legislation and framed appropriate rules thereunder.

(*c*) Government have already been doing their utmost for the eradication of the pest. It has to be remembered, however, that work like this cannot be done by taking coercive measures against the entire population of the province. The work that is being done is mostly organised on a voluntary basis, recourse to coercive measures being taken only in extreme cases. The Water-hyacinth Week observed in April last was organised on a voluntary basis and Government contemplate another vigorous drive for simultaneous clearance of the weed at an early date. Government have also appointed a Special Officer to

assist the Director of Rural Reconstruction in organising the campaign against water-hyacinth and in particular to assist in framing schemes for difficult *bil* areas.

Examinations held under the auspices of the Board of Apprenticeship Training.

31. Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing from April, 1937, to October, 1939—

(*i*) the number of (1) Indian, (2) Anglo-Indian and (3) European candidates who sat for and who passed respectively in each of the examinations held under the auspices of the Board of Apprenticeship Training for admission into workshops recognised by the Board;

(*ii*) the names of the members of the Committee of Moderators and of its Secretary at each of the examinations held during the period; and

(*iii*) the number of (1) Indians, (2) Anglo-Indians, and (3) Europeans who were actually selected for apprenticeship at the workshops approved by the Board as a result of the Apprenticeship Admission Examinations held during the above period?

(*b*) What measures, if any, have Government taken so far or do they propose to take for giving facilities for apprenticeship training to a larger number of Indian candidates?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*)(*i*) A statement is placed on the table.

(*ii*) There is an Examination Committee consisting of the following members who deal with all the examinations of the Board and act as Moderators:—

The Director of Industries, President of the Board.

The Principal, Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur.

The Superintendent, Ordnance Factories.

The Chief Mechanical Engineer, Calcutta Port Commissioners.

The Inspector of European Schools, Bengal.

The Principal, Calcutta Technical School, Secretary of the Board.

(*iii*) Full information is not available. For names of the passed candidates known to have been admitted as apprentices the member

is referred to pages 2-3 and 4, respectively, of Annual Reports of the Boards for the years 1937 and 1938, copies of which are laid on the Library table.

(*b*) Government have adopted a policy of giving preference in the supply of stores to Government Departments to firms who give adequate facilities for the training of Indian apprentices. It is hoped by this means to induce a number of firms to improve the facilities at present given or, where none are given, to arrange for these.

The question of Apprenticeship Training is one part of the general question of technical and vocational education to which Government are giving close attention. The matter has been referred to the Educational Commissioner of the Government of India who has considerable experience in this line and his advice is awaited. The subject is also one that has been referred to the Bengal Industrial Survey Committee whose recommendations, when received, will be carefully considered.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) (i) of unstarred question No. 31.

BOARD'S ADMISSION EXAMINATION.

Examination held in—	Total number of candidates registered.				Total number passed.			
	Indian.	Anglo-Indian.	European.	Total.	Indian.	Anglo-Indian.	European.	Total.
May, 1937 ..	94	29	2	125	18	7	..	25
January, 1938	65	55	6	126	9	19	1	29
May, 1938 ..	101	20	1	122	33	6	..	39
December, 1938	60	36	2	98	9	22	..	31
May, 1939 ..	130	22	2	154	35	10	1	46

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that in the printed rules regarding the apprenticeship examination, rule No. 3 states that the Board of Apprenticeship Training will appoint a Committee of three members to moderate the question papers and to review the results of the examination? If he is so aware, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who were the Moderators, because he has given a list of six members?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The question was there. The question is, "Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table the names of the members of the Committee of Moderators and of its Secretary at each of the examinations held during the period." The reply is, "There is an Examination Committee consisting of the following members who deal with all the examinations of the Board and act as Moderators." But the rule definitely says that there will be a Committee of three members who will act as Moderators, and I have here a list of six members.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I do not know if there is a rule like that. If there is a rule like that, I want notice to see how these names have been given.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the persons who acted as Principal of the Calcutta Technical School and Secretary of the Board during the six examinations that were held?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I again want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that, during May, 1938, when 33 Indian candidates passed as against 6 Anglo-Indians, the officer who acted as Secretary was an Indian, whereas, in other cases, the officer who acted as Secretary was an Anglo-Indian?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The whole purpose of the question is there.

Mr. SPEAKER: I don't think that you can put a question like that. You have really framed a charge in the shape of a question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have asked a question. If the question is answered, it will be there.

Mr. SPEAKER: You know the rules very well. You cannot make any insinuation in a supplementary question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There is no insinuation against any individual.

Mr. SPEAKER: You don't understand anybody else's reason except your own. You first asked whether it was a fact when 33 Indian candidates passed as against 6 Anglo-Indians whether the Secretary of the Board was an Indian. Do you mean to say that it is not in the nature of an insinuation?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I submit with all due respect to you that the rules do not prevent me from putting such a question?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a personal insinuation.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have not mentioned any person.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry I cannot allow the question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the curriculum of that examination, as published in the printed Rules, follows, more or less, the curriculum of the University of Calcutta for the I.Sc. Examination?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I don't know about that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the I.Sc. Examination the Indian candidates who pass are very much larger in number in proportion to the Anglo-Indian candidates?

Mr. SPEAKER: That hardly arises. I don't think anybody has checked the figures of Indian candidates as against the Anglo-Indians.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Always it is done. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if after the examination is conducted the results are reported on the basis of marks allotted to individual candidates, or on any other considerations?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I do not know as to how examinations are carried on. Apparently the marks obtained certainly do count.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is possible for the candidates to obtain mark-sheets?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I cannot say.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The University gives mark-sheets on application if required. Does the Government consider the desirability of introducing such a system?

Mr. SPEAKER: When you want so much detail regarding the internal mechanism of an educational institution, under whatever department it may be, I am afraid, you cannot expect the answer on the floor of a Legislature.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: This is one of the departments of Government and not an educational institution independent of Government. The Secretary is a paid officer of Government. I submit that the question which I have asked is entirely within the jurisdiction of the Legislature because I have no other forum where I can ventilate grievances of this character.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have allowed you so far.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if under rule 10 of the Rules the candidates can be supplied with a copy of the passed list?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I will refer the honourable member to that rule.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: As soon as a passed list is available, does the Government consider the desirability of allowing candidates to get detailed mark-sheets on payment of any fees?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: If such specific questions are asked Government will be prepared to give information.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The questions have been framed with that object in view. I wanted the names of the Moderators; I wanted the name of the Secretary.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The answers are there.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The last question was about the nature of the examinations and how the results are published. If you don't allow the questions, I will not ask.

Mr. SPEAKER: As a matter of fact, Dr. Sanyal, your first question was whether mark-sheets were given and the Hon'ble Minister said, "I do not know." Your next question was whether mark-sheets should be given under the rules.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My next question was not whether mark-sheets should be given, but whether rules provided for the mark-sheets to be given.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a technical point.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You are a Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University and you must know that there is a good deal of difference between the two.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid I am still more ignorant than yourself.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that apart from the results obtained by respective candidiates in examinations on various subjects, there is a provision for interviews by the Committee and a lot depends on that?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is the reason why I first asked the question——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry there is nothing in the answer to justify the supplementary question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that in May, 1938, when 33 Indian candidates passed as against 6 Anglo-Indians, Mr. A. N. Sen was the Principal of the Technical School——

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I asked who the Principal of that school was——

Mr. SPEAKER: How does the question arise?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I wanted the names of the Principal of the Calcutta Technicol School and of the Secretary of the Board.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have to put a specific question for that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I wanted the names of the members of the Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is that for the elucidation of a point?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes, I wanted the names——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I cannot allow that question.

Ban on meetings and processions in Darjeeling.

32. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Political) Department aware—

(*i*) that in the district of Darjeeling, by a recent order of the Deputy Commissioner, no meeting or procession can be held without obtaining his previous permission;

(*ii*) that in the Darjeeling district it is customary to gamble during *Dewali* and gambling of various kinds are seen in innumerable houses in the hills;

(*iii*) that the Secretary of the Darjeeling District Congress Committee, in his letter, dated the 3rd November, 1939, applied to the Deputy Commissioner there for permission to propagate against gambling by organising peaceful processions and public meetings during *Dewali* week, i.e., from the 8th to 15th November, and also for co-operation of the Police in the matter; and

(*iv*) whether the receipt of the petition was acknowledged by the Deputy Commissioner?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iv*) is in the negative, what are the reasons?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) to (*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) No.

(*b*) It is not possible to acknowledge the receipt of all petitions and the date of presentation did not afford time for a considered reply after due enquiry.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under what law the Deputy Commissioner ordered that no meetings or processions should be held without his permission?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I ask for notice.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Has the Hon'ble Minister considered the desirability of stopping gambling as referred to in this question?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: There is no request for stopping gambling in this question.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, the Secretary of the Darjeeling District Congress Committee wanted permission from the Deputy Commissioner for permission to propagate against gambling by organising peaceful processions. But when I asked the Hon'ble Minister under what law the order was passed by the Deputy Commissioner, he asked for notice. Then, as no remedy was given, I asked whether Government would consider the desirability of stopping gambling—whether Government actually took any steps to stop gambling?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That has been the custom there.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government would consider the desirability of stopping this custom of gambling?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I submit that this does not arise out of the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think, you are right.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: The question refers to one incident.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can ask everything about that incident. You can hammer his head on that, but you cannot beat him on this point.

Rise in prices of commodities due to war.

33. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department aware that since the declaration of war against Germany, the prices of all commodities have been continually rising?

(*b*) What has been the percentage of rise in prices in the different commodities the prices of which have gone up?

(*c*). What steps have been taken to prevent such rise?

(*d*) What further steps do the Government propose to take in the matter?

(*e*) Do the Government keep any index figure of cost of living from week to week or at all?

(*f*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of—

(*i*) paying as war allowance 25 per cent. of the wages to each employee of Government drawing below Rs. 100 per month; and

(*ii*) taking steps to compel all non-Government employers to pay 25 per cent. of the wages as war allowance to all their employees drawing less than Rs. 100 per month?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) The prices of most commodities have risen although by no means continually.

(*b*) This is impossible to ascertain. The percentage differs widely and the commodities whose prices have risen are innumerable.

(*c*) and (*d*) Government took steps to arrest those traders who had put up their prices in an unwarranted manner immediately after the declaration of war. This succeeded in preventing profiteering and in an unjustified rise in the prices of commodities. Thereafter, Government have appointed a Price Controller who is assisted by an Advisory Council. It is his duty to control prices and to prevent rise in prices beyond reasonable limits. The District Officers are similarly empowered for the areas under their control. The maximum prices have also been fixed from time to time in respect of essential commodities. Government are continuing to watch the situation and will take action as occasion arises.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) (*i*) There is no such matter under the consideration of Government.

(*ii*) I have no such powers of compulsion.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what has been the percentage of increase in some of the important articles of diet such as rice, flour, atta, kerosene oil and so on?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It changes from week to week.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: What is the present increase?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It changes from week to week.

Mr. SPEAKER: He is the Labour Minister and not the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence!

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the exact increase in price this week?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The honourable member will be pleased to say from what time he is speaking about the increase?

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: I want the difference between the pre-war price and this week's price.

The Hon'ble Mr. .H S. SUHRAWARY: You mean from 1st September last.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Yes, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Does the honourable member expect me to give the price with regard to each of the items? Does he expect me to carry in my head the prices of all these articles?

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: I expected that Hon'ble Minister would be ready with answer on this point.

Mr. DEBI PROSAD KHAITAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that during the last two months the prices have considerably fallen?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Quite so. They have been falling.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thought you were asking for the price of sugar! (Laughter.)

Allegations against the present Officer-in-charge of Hajiganj police-station, Tippera.

34. Maulvi JONAB ALI MAJUMDAR: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department aware that some allegations against the Officer-in-charge of the Hajiganj police-station

has been brought to the notice of the District Magistrate, Tippera, on the 3rd October, 1939, by one Hyderali Pradhania of village Mahabbalpur of the said police-station?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what steps have Government taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) A petition from Hyderali Prodhania making allegations against the Officer-in-charge, Hajiganj, for taking thumb impressions on a blank paper was received by the District Magistrate on the 5th October, 1939, and was sent to the Superintendent of Police for disposal. The Superintendent of Police had an enquiry made into it and found the allegations without substance.

(*b*) It has been decided not to take any action on the petition.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who actually made the enquiry?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: May I refer the honourable member to answer (*a*)?

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Who actually made the enquiry?

Mr. SPEAKER: He depends on the language of your printed reply in putting this question.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I think, I must ask for notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any witnesses were examined?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Yes.

Control of sales and purchases of foreign medicines.

35. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state whether the Government control the sales and purchases of foreign manufactured medicines?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons and objects of such control?

(c) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that due to this control, medicines urgently and immediately required for treating a patient cannot be had in time and in required quantities?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, how does the Hon'ble Minister propose to remove these difficulties and inconveniences of the suffering public and patients?

(e) Do the Government contemplate an inquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (a) Yes, only certain German medicines which medical men and dealers have advised are replaceable.

(b) The object is to prevent hoarding and to make the existing stock available to the maximum number of persons until it is exhausted.

(c) Foreign medicines other than these particular German brands are always available to the public without restriction, and Government, anticipating the contingency indicated by the honourable member, have authorised all dealers to supply the medicines on production of doctor's prescription or permits from the Price Controllers issued either on personal or written applications. If any better method can be suggested the Price Controller would be grateful.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the time when Government authorised the dealers to supply medicines on production of prescriptions from physicians?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am sorry I cannot understand the question. But I may point out that there is a mistake in answer (a), viz., the word "replaceable" should be "irreplaceable."

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: The Hon'ble Minister has said in the answer that "Government have authorised all dealers to supply the medicines on production of doctor's prescription." Will he now be pleased to give us the time when this authority was issued?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: So far as I am aware, it was in the beginning of time.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if this authority relates to German medicines also?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Yes it does.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the dealers do not supply these medicines even on production of prescriptions?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: If there are dealers who have those medicines in their possession and do not supply those medicines on production of these certificates, those dealers ought to be proceeded against, and I shall be very happy if any member of the public brings to the notice of Government any such instances.

Activities of the present Officer-in-charge of Hajiganj police-station Tippera.

36. Maulvi JONAB ALI MAJUMDAR: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware—

(*i*) that there is a feeling against the activities of the Officer-in-charge of the Hajiganj police-station in the district of Tippera;

(*ii*) that the said officer on the plea of the clearance of water-hyacinth issues notices on persons to appear before him at the thana;

(*iii*) that they are then required to show cause why their names will not be reported for prosecution;

(*iv*) that the notices are served on those persons against whom he has personal grudge; and

(*v*) that some respectable persons of the village Noahata, police-station Hajiganj, have been served with such notices on the 10th November, 1939?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make an inquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) No. The Officer-in-charge does not issue notices upon persons for clearance of water-hyacinth.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) Do not arise.

(*v*) Notices to clear water-hyacinth are issued by the Union Board under section 27 of the Village Self-Government Act first. If these are not effective, the President reports to the Subdivisional Officer who issues notices under the Water-hyacinth Act. The Subdivisional Officer is an authorised officer under the Act. It is true that notices on some persons of village Noahata were issued on the 10th November for clearance of water-hyacinth.

(*b*) There is no necessity for further enquiry.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*a*)(*i*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps he took to assess the public feeling in this respect?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: There is no general complaint.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps he took to ascertain that there is no general complaint?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: In the absence of any complaint it is assumed that there is no general complaint: otherwise there would have been complaints to local officers.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has made enquiries?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Naturally, because the question was sent there for reply.

Grievances of Muslim employees of Cossipore Gun Factory.

37. Maulvi MOHAMMED IBRAHIM: Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department aware—

(*a*) that the Muslim employees of the Cossipore Gun Factory are not allowed time to say their *Zohar* and *Asar* prayers; and

(*b*) that one temporary Muslim clerk of the factory was compelled recently to resign his post on account of his persistence in saying his prayers during office hours?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I have no information.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why he did not obtain the necessary information after he received notice of this question or whether——

Mr. SPEAKER: He himself said that he has no information.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: My question is why he did not obtain that information. Did he not think it worth while to obtain that information?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think it is in the jurisdiction of the Government of Bengal.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether considering the serious nature of the allegations, he will be pleased to make necessary enquiries regarding this matter?

Mr. SPEAKER: You are first to ascertain whether this Gun Factory is within the jurisdiction of the Government of Bengal.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Apart from that, he is the Labour Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the business of Government to find out whether people are given their right of prayer unless the place comes within the jurisdiction of this Government?

M. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: It is in Bengal and therefore it comes within the purview of the Hon'ble Minister to enquire into this matter Sir, may I enquire if any representation has been made by the Government of Bengal with regard to these allegations?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: This is the first information that was received by the Government of Bengal that there is any charge to the effect that Moslem employees have not been allowed time to say their prayers.

Floods in the Canning police-station in the 24-Parganas.

38. Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(*i*) of the cutting of the *bund* on the Karatia river within the zemindari of Mr. T. P. Ghose, in the Canning police-station;

(*ii*) of large areas of lands having been submerged;

(*iii*) that houses of peasants have been washed away as a result of the floods and their crops destroyed;

(*iv*) that nine people in those houses have died of cobra bite; one of starvation and two girls, Pramila and her sister, have been drowned in the flood water;

(*v*) that the peasants are praying for (1) remission of rent and (2) agricultural loans;

(*vi*) that through the efforts of the District Magistrate, 24-Parganas, the *bund* was repaired subsequently; and

(*vii*) that large sheets of saline water still remain logged in the areas, making cultivation impossible?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*vii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he proposes to take in the matter?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the zemindars, Messrs. T. P. Ghosh and others, have leased out the same land for *jalkar* or fishery purposes again?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) (*i*) The *bund* was breached by an abnormally high tide on the 17th August, 1939.

(*ii*) An area of about ten square miles was affected by the flood due to the breach.

(*iii*) A few houses collapsed and crops were damaged in the affected area.

(*iv*) Five persons are reported to have died from snake bite; the number is not unusual. No death from starvation has been reported. Information has been received that two girls, aged 10 and 6, were drowned in a tank while doing domestic work; the accident was not connected with the flood.

(*v*) Such requests have been made by some persons. Arrangements have been made to give agricultural loans.

(*vi*) The breach was repaired by the zemindar. Local officials helped and used their influence.

(*vii*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) I have no information to this effect. The zemindars have been asked not to give such a lease.

Scheme for re-excavation of "Thanda Bibi's khal" in Bakarganj.

39. Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Medical Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the scheme for the re-excavation of the *khal* known as "Thanda Bibi's *khal*" in the district of Bakarganj has been under investigation and consideration of the Irrigation Department; and

(*ii*) whether the said *khal* in Wazirpur police-station of the said district was inspected by an officer of the Irrigation Department and subsequently by Assistant Director of Public Health, Dacca Circle?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the results of inspection by the said officers?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the silting up of the said *khal* has affected the irrigation, sanitation, communication and water-supply of a vast area in the district?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of taking immediate steps for the re-excavation of the said *khal*?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*d*) It is proposed that the silt clearance and re-excavation of "Thanda Bibi's *khal*" should be taken up as an anti-malaria scheme and the District Board has been addressed to include this scheme among the major schemes of the District Board.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: With reference to answers (*b*) and (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when was the district board addressed on the subject and when reply, if any, was obtained from the District Board?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I cannot give the exact date of this; but no reply has been received yet.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the District Board has to make any contribution out of its own cess income to the excavation of this *khal*?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Yes, there is a proposal that the District Board should contribute towards this.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that if left to the District Board which has got deficit cess income to include this scheme among other schemes, there is no likelihood of re-excavation being taken up in the near future?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: That is a matter of opinion, Sir.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether anti-malarial grants which have been made from year to year have lapsed or have been spent towards the projects which are proposed to be taken up?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice to answer questions like that.

Scarcity of drinking water in rural areas, specially in Burdwan district.

40. Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state what steps the Government have taken to remove scarcity of drinking water in rural areas of Bengal, specially in the district of Burdwan?

(*b*) What is the necessity of the Water-supply Committee?

(*c*) Has the Water-supply Committee in Burdwan prepared any scheme?

(*d*) What arrangements have the Government made for the supply of tube wells and wells in the locality inhabited by the Scheduled Castes in Burdwan?

(*e*) How many petitions have in the matter of supplying tube wells been received by the Circle Officer, Sadar, Burdwan?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) To draw up a properly distributed programme of rural water-supply according to local needs and circumstances.

(*c*) The Water-supply Committees in the district of Burdwan have assisted in the preparation of a programme of rural water-supply to be financed from the annual provincial grants and are also engaged in preparing a comprehensive programme of rural water-supply for the district as a whole.

(*d*) It is reported that special stress is laid on providing wells in the localities inhabited by Scheduled Castes and other backward communities. The poorer areas have been exempted from payment of local contribution in respect of utilisation of the provincial grant.

(*e*) It is reported that seven petitions were received by the Circle Officer, Sadar, during the current year.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 40.

Government make an annual grant from provincial revenues for the improvement of rural water-supply. The normal grant of Rs. 2½ lakhs was raised to Rs. 3½ lakhs in 1937-38 and to Rs. 7½ lakhs in 1938-39 and this amount has been repeated during the current year. A sum of about Rs. 2,10,000 and Rs. 4,65,000 was also spent up to the end of 1938-39 on the improvement of rural water-supply from the Central Government's first and second grants respectively, made to this province for economic development and improvement of rural areas. A

rural water-supply loan scheme has been adopted by Government according to which loans are granted to the District Boards on very liberal terms and at a very concessional rate of interest to enable them to undertake schemes for the improvement of water-supply. With a view to tackling the problem of rural water-supply effectively and within a limited period, Government have directed the preparation of a comprehensive programme of rural water-supply for the whole province with the aid of the District Boards and rural Water-supply Committees established in each thana, subdivision and district. The preparation of the comprehensive programme, district by district, is already in progress and is expected to be completed before the 31st March, 1940. So far as the district of Burdwan is concerned, 359 wells were sunk in the district from Provincial as well as Central Government's grants amounting to Rs. 50,752 in all during the years 1937-38 and 1938-39 and the current year's programme is one of 230 wells with a total grant of Rs. 32,913 sanctioned by Government.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us why the whole amount that was granted was not utilised?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice.

Nomination of members to various self-governing local bodies.

41. Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state separately the number of members nominated by the Government since the 1st April, 1937, to the different—

(*i*) Municipalities,

(*ii*) District Boards, and

(*iii*) Local Boards,

of this province?

(*b*) How many of these members are—

(*i*) Muslims;

(*ii*) Scheduled Castes; and

(*iii*) Caste Hindus?

(*c*) On what basis the members have been nominated?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(*c*) The general principle which has been followed by Government in making nominations to these local bodies is to secure association, in their administration, of officials and other persons specially fitted for appointment and to secure the representation, wherever possible, of other minorities of importance.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মন্ত্রীমহাশয় দয়া কোরে বোলবেন কি তিনি যে বিভিন্ন মিউনিসিপালিটি, লোকাল বোর্ড ও ডিষ্টিক্ট বোর্ডের মেম্বরদের নমিনেশনের তালিকা দিয়াছেন, এবং তাতে বিভিন্ন সম্প্রদায় থেকে নমিনেশনের যে তালিকা দিয়েছেন তা থেকে দেখা যায় যে শতকরা ৯০টী মিউনিসিপালিটিতে সিডিউল্ড কাষ্টের কোন লোককেই নমিনেশন দেওয়া হয় নাই কেন এই নমিনেশন না দেওয়ার কারণটা তিনি বিশেষ কোরে বুঝিয়ে বোলবেন কি?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Unfortunately, Sir, in the municipalities the representation of Scheduled Castes is so insignificant that it is very difficult to nominate members from this community there.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Question (*c*) তে রয়েছে—On what basis members have been nominated আমার প্রশ্নের উদ্দেশ্য হোচ্চে কি basis এ, population basis না মেম্বরের qualification এর basis অথবা Government এর whim এর basis এই কথা আমার—

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Biswas, the Hon'ble Minister has given the answer "minorities of importance"; and his next answer is that the Scheduled Castes form such an insignificant number that they cannot be given representation. Now, will you frame your question regarding this?

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: এই যে এখানে মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বোলেছেন যে প্রধান প্রধান minorities ভিতর থেকে nomination হোয়েছে scheduled castes one of the miniorities এর ভিতর পড়ে কি না?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, regard being had to holdings, population, etc., important minorities are considered. What I mean is that if there is only one person in a municipality—he may be an important minority—that does not mean that that one person represents the minorities.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মন্ত্রীমহাশয় জানেন কি প্রত্যেক মিউনিসিপালিটিতে scheduled castes এর লোকসংখ্যা যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে আছে?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মন্ত্রীমহাশয় দয়া কোরে বোলবেন কি কোন কোন সম্প্রদায় থেকে লোক নিয়ে nomination করা হয় এবং তালিকা যে তিনি প্রকাশ কোরেছেন——

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that question has been answered.

Formation of an island in the mouth of the river Sangoo in Chittagong.

42. Khan Bahadur MD. ANWARUL AZIM: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(*i*) that an island has formed in the mouth of the river Sangoo in the district of Chittagong;

(*ii*) that this island is causing erosion on the north-west corner of the island of Kutubdia; and

(*iii*) that it has already threatened the lighthouse?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of removing the island by dredging?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) (*i*) I am informed that the sea is receding here and that a big *char* has formed extending many miles both above and below the mouth of the Sangoo.

(*ii*) The *char* has nothing to do with the erosion of the north-west corner of the Kutubdia island which is being caused by the sea.

(*iii*) The Port Commissioners are taking steps to protect the lighthouse.

(*b*) The suggestion is not feasible.

Pay of sanitary assistants in Bengal.

43. Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health Department be pleased to state the number of sanitary assistants now working in the different districts of Bengal?

(*b*) Is it a fact that on page 43 of the book entitled "Bengal Rural Public Health Organisation" published by the Government of Bengal the scale of their pay has been laid down as Rs. 20—1—30?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to—

(*i*) state whether the pay of these sanitary assistants has been increased in accordance with that scale; and

(*ii*) lay on the table a statement showing the present monthly pay of each of them?

(*d*) If the pay has not been increased in accordance with the scale mentioned in (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) 575.

(*b*) Yes, but the scale laid down in that brochure merely represents a suggestion of the Director of Public Health, Bengal, and has not been yet finally considered or approved by Government.

(*c*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) The sanitary assistants are employed by the District Boards and any amount in excess of the pay fixed by Government is borne by the local bodies out of their own funds and not from the contribution made by Government.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when did the Director of Public Health make the recommendation suggesting the scale of pay of these Sanitary Assistants from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 a month?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I cannot say off-hand.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: With reference to answer 1(*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has been thinking of considering the matter and finally approving the scale of pay in the near future?

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the pay of these Sanitary Officers now?

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE. Rs. 20 only a month.

Mr. SPEAKER: Why not then ask the plain question as to whether it is contemplated to have a time-scale of pay for them?

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Sir, the Government says that the suggestion of the Director of Public Health has not been finally approved of. So, I am asking the Hon'ble Minister whether he intends considering the suggestion.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, there have been a lot of changes in this department. I have taken over very lately and these papers may not have come to my notice yet.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Now that it has been brought to your notice, will you consider it soon?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Yes.

Flood relief for the people of Kasba and Dhakuria.

44. Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: (*a*) With reference to the reply given on the 24th August, 1937, to starred question No. 78A, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state, what steps, if any, on the lines indicated in the aforesaid reply, have actually been taken to relieve the people of Kasba and Dhakuria within the municipality of Tollygunge from flood or water-logging since the Hon'ble Ministers in charge of the Local Self-Government and the Irrigation Departments visited the flooded areas in August, 1937?

(*b*) If no steps have been taken, what are the reasons?

(*c*) Why the scheme for preventing water-logging of the area has not materialised as yet?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Kasba and Dhakuria suffered from worse flood this year than before;

(*ii*) that the *taccavi* embankments to the east of the area were not sufficiently repaired and raised this year to prevent the overflow of water from salt lake area;

(*iii*) that the Tollygunge municipality failed to keep the Ganiagachi sluice in order as advised some time ago by the Executive Engineer, Canal Division; and

(*iv*) that the municipality withheld payment of the required sum to the Calcutta Corporation for pumping out surplus water during the rains?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: (*a*) to (*c*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*d*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes. But the flooding inside the *taccavi* embankment was mainly caused by the stagnation of the rain water owing to the absence of any drainage outlet and had very little to do with the breaches.

(*iii*) The Tollygunge municipality has nothing to do with repairs to the Ganiagachi sluice which is in charge of the Executive Engineer, Canal Division.

(*iv*) No. Government are informed that payment has been made to the Calcutta Corporation for the purpose of pumping out surplus water.

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (a) to (c) of unstarred question No. 44.

In pursuance of the statement made by the Health Minister in the last paragraph of his reply given on the 24th August, 1937, to starred question No. 78A, by Mr. Nagendra Nath Sen, the Chief Engineer, Irrigation, submitted on the 27th September, 1937, a scheme for construction of an embankment in the Tollygunge municipality. The scheme was considered at a conference held by the Health Minister on the 24th August, 1937, which approved it, subject to details being drawn up by the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, and the Director of Public Health. The Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, submitted his scheme which was considered at a subsequent conference held on the 22nd January, 1938. This conference was of the opinion that the proposal for a protective embankment should emanate from the Tollygunge municipality and accordingly the Chairman of the Tollygunge municipality who was present at that conference, was requested to submit a scheme in consultation with the technical experts of Government.

The scheme prepared by the Tollygunge municipality in consultation with the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, was submitted through the local officers and the Sanitary Board on the 15th March, 1938. The capital cost of the scheme was estimated at Rs. 1,50,000, and the recurring cost of Rs. 14,000, the latter on the assumption that the Calcutta Corporation would allow concessional rate for the use of their pumps. The Municipal Commissioners proposed that certain portion of the capital cost should be met by the Calcutta Corporation and the authorities of the Eastern Bengal Railway, who were likely to be benefited by the scheme. Accordingly both these bodies were addressed to contribute their share but both expressed their inability to make any contribution. In view of all this, this department proposed to contribute a moiety of the cost, the other half being

met by the Municipal Commissioners by raising a loan from Government. The financial ability of the municipality to bear the proposed loan and other recurring charges of the scheme was examined, and the proposal was approved by Government in November, 1938.

In the meanwhile the Corporation were also addressed in regard to the concessional rate for the use of their pumps. In reply they refused to allow the concessional rate. The refusal of the Corporation having increased the recurring charges to about Rs. 22,000 the Municipal Commissioners were requested to say if they would be prepared to reduce their expenditure on other heads and effect economies in other directions in order to accommodate the increased recurring charges even if the expectation of anticipated growth of revenue after construction of the embankment failed to materialise. The Tollygunge municipality agreed and their reply was received on the 28th March, 1939.

Government are now awaiting receipt of detailed plans and estimates from the municipality (as required under rule 6 of the Sanitary Project Rules). It is reported by the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, that the detailed project is nearly ready and it is expected to be sent to the municipality shortly.

It will be seen from the above that a good deal of time had to be spent in correspondence between Government, the municipal authorities, and other bodies concerned in regard to the financial proposals involved in the scheme.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to refer to paragraph 3 of the statement laid on the table and say when the Calcutta Corporation refused to allow concessional rate, and, secondly, when the Municipal Commissioners were requested to say as referred to in that part of the question?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Will the honourable member please repeat the question?

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: In paragraph 3 of the statement the Hon'ble Minister says, "In the meanwhile the Corporation were also addressed in regard to the concessional rate for the use of their pumps. In reply they refused to allow the concessional rate. The refusal of the Corporation having increased the recurring charges to about Rs. 22,000, the Municipal Commissioners were requested to say.....", My question is when did the Corporation refuse to allow the concessional rate, and, secondly, when was the Tollygunge Municipality requested to say as referred to in that question?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice to give dates.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to refer to paragraph 4 of the statement and state whether the detailed project is under preparation since 28th March, 1939?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: That may be so. I cannot say.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say why the preparation of the detailed project is taking such an unduly long time?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, as I have already stated in the statement, much correspondence has taken place. First, there was a certain scheme which was framed on the basis that the Corporation would grant certain concession and certain other things happened, and when the Corporation refused and the Railways refused, a lot of correspondence took place and this involved delay.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: My plain question is that the Hon'ble Minister's statement shows that the correspondence closed by the 28th March, 1939, that is, about a year ago. Since then there has been no further correspondence at all. So my question is whether the detailed project is under preparation for an unduly long time?

Mr. SPEAKER: This is nearly ready.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: But it is not yet ready. It is taking such an unusually long time from the 28th March, 1939, *i.e.*, about a year.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: This is a technical question which requires very careful consideration. That is why it is taking such a long time.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: When is the detailed project expected to be ready?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Very shortly.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister please refer to part (*ii*) of his answer (*d*) where he says, "But the flooding inside the *taccari* embankment was mainly caused by the stagnation of the rain water owing to the absence of any drainage outlet and had very little to do with the breaches." My question is, what this absence of drainage is due to?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Drain water or monsoon.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: What! Absence of drainage due to monsoon? (Laughter.)

Will the Hon'ble Minister please refer to part (*iv*) of his answer and state whether the Ganiagachi sluice is still working?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I want notice.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker directed the next question to be taken up.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I have to ask a few supplementary questions and I have been trying to draw your attention. Sir, may I have an opportunity to put the questions?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, you cannot ask details about a statement. If you want me to strictly observe the rules, I shall have to rule out many questions.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, these are very important questions, and I am only elucidating the points in the answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Chaudhuri, I hope you will agree with me that it is only in regard to such points in the answer which are not clear that the right of putting supplementary questions arises. But here the points are clear, and you want fresh information. I am always prepared to give you the fullest opportunity when it is possible.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, what about my questions? I have not yet been able to put them. May I have an opportunity?

(Mr. Speaker here again asked the Secretary to call the next question.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, am I to be denied the right of putting supplementary questions and may I know why I should be so denied?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I think it is not fair to the members of the House who may have a very large number of pertinent questions and there are still two more questions to be taken up and we have only five minutes more. And if I allow you, I shall have to deprive other members of the right of putting supplementary questions.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But, Sir, I have not asked a single supplementary question on this.

Damages caused by flood in certain parts of Murshidabad district.

45. Mr. M. FARHAD RAZA CHOWDHURY: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware of the fact that huge tracts of land including several villages between Dhulian Ganges and Tildanga railway stations in the Jangipur subdivision in the district of Murshidabad have been flooded this year, damaging the entire paddy crops of these areas?

(*b*) Has the Hon'ble Minister enquired into the causes of the damages with a view to find out remedial measures to prevent the flood in future?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the question of canals to carry water to the rivers or other outlets like culverts, etc., has been considered?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of instituting an enquiry to find out an early remedy?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) In the tract referred to some areas were flooded during the year 1939 and crops suffered damage.

(*b*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Order prohibiting Krishak workers from holding meetings and remaining in the jurisdiction of Alcakhoa Fair.

46. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Political) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an order under section 144, Criminal Procedure

Code, prohibiting certain Krishak workers from holding meetings in Aloakhoa Fair and prohibiting them from remaining in the jurisdiction of the fair was promulgated by the Subdivisional Officer of Thakurgaon in the district of Dinajpur?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for the promulgation of the order on the Krishak workers?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A large number of people giving out that they were volunteers of Krishak Samitis went armed with *lathis* in a procession and tried to create a disturbance of the peace. As a serious breach of peace was apprehended if they were allowed to move freely in the fair, the order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, was issued.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state at whose instance the said order was promulgated?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The District Magistrate did it of his own and the Subdivisional Officer promulgated it.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: May I know, Sir, at whose instance?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: At nobody's instance.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who were the persons with whom the volunteers were likely to come into clash?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The people in the *hât*.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Is it a fact that the authorities of the *hât* or the *mela*, whatever it may be, used to realise exorbitant rates from the buyers and sellers of cattle and other commodities?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That is possible; it may be so.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that as the volunteers agitated greatly in that area, the authorities of the *hât* were compelled to reduce the rent?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Babu PREMHARI BARMA: Sir, may I know what kind of disturbance they tried to create?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: May I draw the attention of the honourable member to my answer that they went there armed with *lathis*, and it does not mean that they went there with any peaceful intention. If there is any dispute, there are likely to be cases of broken heads, and that is why orders under section 144 were issued.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that peasants are ordinarily armed with *lathis* for driving their cattle? (Laughter.)

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Point of Order.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I draw your attention to rule 33 of the Assembly Procedure Rules which relates to supplementary questions? It states: "Any member may put a supplementary question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact regarding which an answer has been given: provided that the Speaker shall disallow any supplementary question if, in his opinion, it infringes the rules as to the subject-matter of question." May I enquire as a matter of privilege of a member as well as a matter of procedure under the Rules, if the Speaker has got any other authority than what is provided in the Rules to disallow a particular member from putting a particular supplementary question as you have been pleased to disallow me, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the Speaker in every legislature has an inherent right to decide whether or not a question is an abuse of the right of putting questions. If there is not that power, then there will be no end of questions. Dr. Sanyal, will you please sit down? I may tell you that this is a question of the breach of privilege. While I am speaking, you should not be on your legs.

What I am pointing out is this: supposing 45 minutes or one hour is allotted for putting supplementary questions——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir,——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. You cannot cross questions with me. You can do it with impunity with others but not with me. What I am saying is that I consider that the regulation of questions and the debate is an inherent prerogative of the Speaker in

this House, and I shall be the last person to accept the position that I have no such power, because if I allow one member to put supplementary questions *ad infinitum* one after another without exercising my discretion, like a machine—perhaps electric or otherwise (Laughter) I do not know—then it means that others who have got equally important vital questions have no right. Therefore if I have exercised discretion in the matter I think I have done it rightly.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, one hour is available for putting questions. As it is, we had finished these questions five minutes before the allotted time. Thus there would be some possibility of my question being answered. But before my question was put, I cannot possibly realise how you could enter into my brain to ascertain whether my question would be permissible or admissible under the Rules. There are Hitlers who think that they have inherent right, but here the rules provide for no Hitlerism.

Mr. SPEAKER: As to that I would not have given any answer. But supposing I modulated the questions according to my judgment as to what is proper and what is not proper, it is quite possible that I shall never be able to punctually close the questions at the end of exactly one hour. It may be a bit earlier or it may be a bit late. I am afraid Dr. Sanyal's point of order is not in order.

Select Committee Report.

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Sir, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Administrator-General, Bengal (Amendment) Bill, 1939.

I beg also to present the report of the Select Committee on the Official Trustees Bengal (Amendment) Bill, 1939.

Mr. SPEAKER: We will now take up the general discussion of the budget.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Ms. Speaker, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has in the course of his statement in presenting the Budget Estimate for the year 1940-41 attempted to disarm criticism by making the confession that this year's Budget must be as great a disappointment to the members of this House as it is to him personally. I agree with him that both his Budget Estimates

and his Statement in introducing the Budget are rightly the causes of disappointment—of profound disappointment—to all sections of the House. But I cannot agree with him when he says that with the limited materials at his disposal it was not possible for him to paint anything but a gloomy picture. I should have thought, on the contrary, that even with the limited materials at his disposal it was possible to relieve the gloom by the exercise of a little imagination, by a correct appreciation of the real needs of the province, and a judicious distribution of expenditure.

Sir, when we examine the Budget Estimates for the coming year and compare them with the estimates of the last three years, we cannot fail to notice that there has been a progressive deterioration in our position. If I may start with the actuals for the year 1938-39, the receipts were 12 crores and 76 lakhs odd and the expenditure was about the same; there was in fact no surplus. When we come to the actuals—or to be more accurate—to the revised estimates for the year 1939-40, we find that the receipts were a little over 14 crores and the expenditure 14 crores and 16 lakhs odd. The deficit started from year 1939-40 and the Budget Estimates for the coming year, namely, 1940-41, disclose that the expected receipts are 13 crores 97 lakhs and the estimated expenditure 14 crores 54 lakhs odd. The figures which I have just now quoted show a deficit of 57 lakhs, but the deficit is in fact much more than that, because we have to add to that figure of 57 lakhs a figure of 26 lakhs which is the net deficit in the Capital and Debt Deposit section of the Budget. Therefore we arrive at a total deficit of 83 lakhs.

Sir, in opening the debate I desire to confine myself to the general features of the Budget Estimates and to leave it to other members to deal in greater detail with the different heads. If I were to analyse the coming year's expenditure I find that there has been an increase in expenditure under certain heads. The increase under the head of Irrigation is to the extent of 5 lakhs 89 thousand, that of Debt Conciliation of 5 lakhs 62 thousand, that of Education 1 lakh 87 thousand. Pausing therefore for a moment may I not offer the legitimate criticism that the increase under the head of Education is only a trifle, altogether disproportionate to the crying needs of the province both in the matter of primary as well as secondary education?

Then, Sir, if I were to run through the other items, in which increase in expenditure has been provided, I find that Medical is responsible for an increase of 2 lakhs 59 thousand, Public Health 7 lakhs 4 thousand, Co-operation a lakh and one thousand and Civil Works, 13 lakhs 41 thousand. I had a lot to say about Co-operation but I shall leave it to my honourable friend, Mr. Satya

Priya Banerjee, who will follow me on this side of the House. The total increase in expenditure comes to about 38 lakhs, and I have taken only those heads which may be described as nation-building activities.

Now, Sir, when we come to General Administration and what I may describe as non-effective charges, we find that General Administration has got an increase of 2 lakhs 29 thousand. With regard to the item of General Administration, may I not repeat the words of protest which we have uttered in this House year after year? Having regard to the finances not only of this province but of every other province in British India, I think any Finance Member who desires to minister to the real needs of the people has got to make a substantial—a very substantial—reduction in the cost of General Administration. Sir, when I was going through the Budget figures, the words which I found years ago in a book written by a distinguished Irish author flashed across my mind. He said in the Preface to his book—and I may add the book is no other than the Life of Michael Collins—he said, "English civilisation and culture are no doubt great things and English methods of Government seem to suit the English people; but under them our country decayed—physically, socially, intellectually, industrially and economically, in wealth, in population, in culture, and in every way." Sir, may I not claim that those words apply with even greater force to this country and the truth of those words, those observations, is borne in upon us particularly when we consider the cost of General Administration in the whole of this land and not merely in one particular province.

Now, Sir, instead of the cost of General Administration going down under the Government which calls itself popular, you find that the figures are mounting up year after year. And even this year, when according to the Finance Minister, there was not sufficient money for the purpose of catering to the real needs of the province we find that General Administration is responsible for an increase to the extent of nearly 2½ lakhs.

Then, coming to the next item, viz., Administration of Justice, I find that it is responsible for an increase of a little over 3 lakhs. Honourable members might possibly think that because for the last quarter of a century I have taken a humble part in the Administration of Justice, I could be expected to support an increase in expenditure on this item. But, Sir, I do not, because my 25 years' experience in this line has convinced me—and I do not make a secret of it—that the whole administration of justice in this country needs a thorough overhauling and that British methods of justice will not do in this country. They are not suited to this country. They are too expensive for this country. They do not deal out even-handed

justice in this country between man and man and class and class. That is an observation which I make seriously with a full sense of responsibility. Even under the head of "Administration of Justice," it is possible without decreasing its efficiency to make substantial reductions. It is possible, and it would be right to associate with the administration of justice more and more properly qualified men of this land and at a much lesser cost than we are incurring to-day.

Then, Sir, coming to an item which appears for the first time in the Budget Estimates of 1940-41, I mean the estimate, the extraordinary estimate, which may be described as the "War Estimate," I find that it is responsible for Rs. 5,58,000. There, again, the views which this side of the House hold are well-known and I should say, Sir, after deep consideration of this item that the materials before us do not justify a large provision of Rs. 5,58,000.

Now, Sir, coming to some of the principles which in my submission ought to guide the distribution of expenditure, let us take some of the nation-building departments. Let us take agriculture and irrigation and industry. So far as agriculture is concerned we are painfully constrained to note that though provincial autonomy, or so-called provincial autonomy, has been in operation for the last four years there has been no attempt to grapple with this problem. We know, Sir, —and I had occasion quite recently in addressing an audience assembled at an Exhibition in South Calcutta to refer to it—that the fertility of the land has progressively deteriorated. There are many contributory causes. The dead and dying rivers, the ill-planned railway lines, and many other factors contribute to the decay of the fertility of the land. We have been waiting during these four or five years to find some attempt to solve the problem, some attempt to raise fertility of the land. It is possible, Sir,—I have not the time now to go into detailed figures but in another place I have tried to satisfy the public with figures on the subject—it is possible for our country to produce enough for the purpose of feeding and clothing our own people and also to feed and clothe a good part of the world besides. If you were to examine the figures regarding the fertility during the reign of Emperor Akbar and compare them with the figures of to-day, you will find that fertility has gone down at least four times. But, though we have been waiting for the last four years for some indication of a serious attempt to grapple with the real problems—the problem of development of industries, the problem of agriculture and irrigation, the problem of co-operation and so on—we find that all these nation-building activities have been starved, more or less during that period. I am free to confess, Sir, that in one year some attempt was noticeable in those directions, but unfortunately it has not been followed up.

(Here the House adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(*After adjournment.*)

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Sir, before the House rose, I was dealing with the items of "General Administration" and "Administration of Justice" and I was trying to impress upon the House the supreme necessity of cutting down the cost of General Administration and also of Administration of Justice. If we fail there, we fail to contribute to the primary needs of the province to a very large extent. I do not mean to suggest for one moment that it is possible to increase the fertility of the soil in the course of a few years, but what I do suggest to the House is this, that steps should have been taken—effective steps should have been taken in that direction long ago. I do not mean to suggest for one moment that it is possible to give life to our dead and dying rivers by a miracle. But what I desire to impress upon the House is this, that the importance, the seriousness of the problem ought to have been realised more than it has been done by the Treasury Benches.

Now, Sir, may I come to the question of "Industries"? I have said again and again in this House and elsewhere that it is only a half-truth to say that India is an agricultural country. India was also an industrial country. History records the progress India made in that direction. I should have thought that it was one of the primary duties of a popular Government to survey the mineral resources of the province committed to their charge and to take steps by aiding private industrial enterprises and also by starting State industries to contribute to the wealth and to the development of the province and thereby to the solution of the unemployment problem. We realise that Government service or private service cannot solve those questions. It would only be tinkering with these problems if we were to ask Government or private employers to solve the problem of unemployment. That problem could be solved to some extent if Government were to apply their mind to the development of agriculture, to the increase of facilities of irrigation, to the survey of the mineral resources of the province and to aiding private enterprise in the matter of industries and also to starting large-scale industries themselves. These are the problems which a popular Government have to consider. I know—I fully realise that it cannot be done in a day; but my complaint is—my grievance is—that no attempt has been made in those directions up till now.

Now, Sir, if I may come to the head "Education," may I at the outset read a few sentences from the statement of the Hon'ble Finance Minister at pages 13 and 14 of the printed booklet. He has said—"There is an additional provision of over 2 lakhs for the training of teachers for primary schools; of Rs. 50,000 for grants to madrassahs; of Rs. 40,000 for the award of scholarships; and of a similar amount for the expansion of the Lady Brabourne College. There is a provision of 1½ lakhs representing the final instalment of the grant of 2½ lakhs to

the Dacca University for the additional Muslim Hall; and of Rs. 40,000 for a grant to that University in connection with the recently organised Faculty of Agriculture. The Budget also provides for a grant of Rs. 67,500 to the Sadaat College, Karotia, being the second instalment of a grant of a lakh and thirty-five thousand to this institution to enable it to complete its building projects. Rs. 50,000 has been provided for a grant to the Bengal Bratachari Society for the acquisition of land and the construction of buildings and Rs. 20,000 has been provided for a capital grant to the Vidyasagar Bani Bhawan, Calcutta. A provision of Rs. 15,000 has been made for additional building grants to madrassahs and of Rs. 11,000 for a capital grant to the Faridpur Girls' Junior Madrassah" and so on. Sir, good things no doubt, but a Finance Minister in charge of a deficit budget has got to consider, in my opinion, whether money ought to be spent on brick and mortar or aid should be given to life-giving institutions already in existence. Take one case—the Bratachari Society. I am an admirer of the objects of that Society; but if this year any grant has to be made at the expense of the grant of Rs. 25,000 to Viswa Bharati which was made last year, I certainly will not congratulate the Finance Minister on his decision. Sir, it is invidious to institute comparisons. But who does not know the great work, the noble work, that is being done at Bolpur under the lead of Viswa-Kavi Rabindranath? Sir, it was a source of great encouragement to this side of the House to find last year a grant of Rs. 25,000 to that institution But to our great disappointment that grant does not find any place in the Budget Estimates for 1940-41. (Cries of "Shame! Shame!" from the Congress benches.) Sir, if there is any institution in this province which can really be called great, which can really be called noble, which can really be described as the meeting ground of all the cultures in this land, I should say, Sir, it is Viswa Bharati. It gave me great pain, and I may add, humiliation, that we in this House should not have inserted that item of Rs. 25,000 in the coming year's Budget. We all know that the bud of yesterday has developed into a full-blown flower under the fostering care of Viswa-Kavi Rabindranath. We know that Viswa-Kavi belongs to Bengal, and we know at the same time that he belongs to India and to the rest of the world. We know that that institution is located in Bengal and belongs to Bengal, but I think that the world may well claim that institution to belong to the world. In these circumstances, I would venture even at this late stage to ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister to consider and to devise ways and means for inserting that item in the coming year's Budget. Sir, I may, without any disrespect to Viswa-Kavi Rabindranath, say that in that institution located in the virgin soil of Bolpur, he has sown the seeds of the Federation of the world. Let us in this House support what is great, what is noble, what is life-giving, what will be an example to the rest of the world in culture, in education, in attempts at improvement in the physique and the understanding of the people and in matters pertaining to the spirit of man.

I would therefore once again address my honourable friend the Finance Minister a word of appeal regarding the grant to that institution. I do not mean to disparage any of the institutions whose names are to be found in his printed statement; but I do think that instead of wasting money on brick and mortar this year, we should divert at least a portion of the money—a substantial portion of the money—to give aid to institutions which are doing real service not only to this land of ours but to the rest of the world.

Now, Sir, there is one word I would like to say about the proposal for new taxation. In this connection I desire to make it clear that if proposals for new taxation are brought forward before this House for the purpose of meeting the deficit, we in this House are not prepared to support those proposals. (Cries of "Hear! Hear!" from Congress benches.) If those proposals are put forward for the purpose of giving life to the dead bones of our provinces, certainly those proposals will demand of us careful consideration, and if those proposals do not mean additional burden on the poor, additional burden on the peasants and the workers of the land, then we shall certainly give those proposals our deepest consideration.

Sir, I do not propose to detain the House with my observations on the general features of the Budget more than I have already done, and I wish to conclude with the observation that this Budget does not contain any scheme of planned economy, it does not contain even a trace of a recovery plan. Sir, I condole with the Finance Minister.

Mr. W. A. M. WALKER: Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to take part in the general discussion on the Budget, I find it a somewhat difficult task. In the first place, I must offer my congratulations to the new Finance Minister on his Budget speech. I do not propose to go into any of the details of the Budget as that will be dealt with by other members of my party. The Budget itself can hardly be a subject of congratulations to the new Finance Minister, nor indeed can it be generally a matter for severe criticism. It can best be described as a matter for extending sympathy to the Hon'ble Minister in that on the occasion of presenting his first Budget he is faced with a deficit and the problem of how best to make ends meet in view of the present international situation. He might find a crumb of comfort in the improvement in the actual revenue position, but on the other hand the depletion of reserves as a result of successive deficit budgets reveals a very serious situation. Budget estimates for the coming year show a closing balance of only 23 lakhs above the minimum balance which must be maintained with the Reserve Bank and in the treasuries. The closing balance represents the province's only reserves with the exception of the investment in the Famine Insurance Fund, about 12 lakhs, and securities of a normal value of 38½ lakhs. The decision not to raise a loan of one crore has contributed to this position. Faced with this serious position

I need not stress the need for caution and the first aim of the Finance Minister must be to build up a sound reserve position. Without this it will be extremely dangerous for him to embark upon new schemes involving large scale expenditure, however necessary and desirable they may be. It is true that owing to war conditions the Finance Minister may hope for an expanding revenue, but few who remember the last post-war slump will disagree with the opinion he has expressed that it would be fatal to the finances of the province if deceived by an artificial prosperity due to war conditions we permitted ourselves to undertake new commitments that we cannot hope to be able to maintain. Nor will they disagree with his conclusion that we must seize this opportunity to build up our reserves in order to be in a position to lighten the severity of the inevitable slump by undertaking large scale schemes of civil work, irrigation and drainage.

Towards the end of his Budget speech the Finance Minister threw out a few hints regarding the survey upon which he was engaged for the purposes of discovering new sources of revenue. He anticipates that before the end of this financial year he will place before the House proposals for new taxation. I can therefore issue a timely note of warning to the Finance Minister that he will be well advised to pursue a cautious policy in this direction. The burden of existing taxation falls heavily on the urban areas and there is a strong possibility that increased taxation will defeat its object. Bengal has been well advised in avoiding piecemeal taxation which has been introduced in other provinces. Such taxes as the Madras General Sales Tax have proved difficult to administer and easy to evade and the financial return has not been commensurate. The Bombay Congress Government found so many difficulties and disadvantages in the way of the Bombay Sales Tax on cloth that they were not able to introduce it and it was afterwards cancelled.

I can with some pleasure congratulate the Finance Minister on the provision he has been able to make for increased expenditure on nation-building and for his skill in distributing these increases. I would only mention one item which is of partcular interest for me. I refer to the additional amount of Rs. 15,000 provided for a much needed increase in the nursing staff of the Medical College Hospital. This will go some way towards remedying existing defects. We are grateful even for this small increase.

I will now refer to one important point raised in the speech of the Hon'ble Minister, the question of jute and jute regulation. I would emphasize the excellent advice which the Finance Minister has offered to the jute-growers to use the benefits they have received from the high prices prevailing this year to rid themselves of their burdens of debt. I would however sound a note of warning with reference to the proposed restriction policy. There is in this a very real danger, and I fear Government have been overhasty in their decision regarding this year's

crop. They have not considered the possible consequence of restriction this year and the grave dangers to the province which might arise through the prices being forced up to an uneconomic level. I will not dwell on this subject as ample opportunity for criticism will be afforded when the necessary legislation comes before the House.

In concluding, Sir, I would like to offer my sympathies to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for being faced so soon in his new rôle with the task of presenting a budget and a deficit one at that. He is however a man of great resources, and I think we may congratulate him on having made the best of a somewhat difficult position. His present intentions of proceeding with caution are praiseworthy, and I hope when he considers the question of new taxation he will bear in mind the note of warning I sounded earlier.

Mr. SATYA PRIYA BANERJI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I must congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister on his having at least once on the floor of the House told a bare, simple, plain and naked truth when he said the other day—

"We must expand and expand progressively. There is such a crying need for an immediate expansion of our nation-building activities that to my colleagues, to the honourable members of this House, to all those in fact who know and deplore the conditions in which the ill-educated, ill-housed, ill-fed and malaria-stricken sons of Bengal live, this year's Budget must be as great a disappointment as it is to me personally."

Yes, Sir, it is disappointing, disappointing because it has not disclosed any plan for the present with a view to construct the future, disappointing because it is unimaginative in that it does not indicate any solution of the problems confronting us at present, disappointing because it aims at maintaining the *status quo*, disappointing because there is a deliberate attempt at not mobilising men, money and materials for the common good, disappointing because it is, after all, a pathetic monument of governmental folly and failure. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I was hearing the Hon'ble the Finance Minister reading his budget statement the other day, I could imagine that amongst certain members of this House there was much holding of heads, much quickening of pulses and much beating of hearts at the prospect of additional taxation, but at last they heaved a sigh of relief when they found that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister acted more upon the maxim "anticipation is better than realisation" than upon immediate realisation itself. But I find to-day Mr. Walker, leader of the European group, apprehensive about the survey in which the Hon'ble Minister says he is engaged and sounds a note of warning.

Sir, I do not deny that there is not as much scope as we wished for an increase of revenue to the Provincial Government by way of taxation,

but I do feel and feel very strongly that the sources of revenue that have been given to us by the Government of India Act, 1935, have not been sufficiently tapped or not tapped at all. I do not know what considerations stood in the way of not taxing agricultural income. I do not know what prevented the Government from introducing a tax on sale of goods. I do not know what were the considerations that led them to impose tax only on entertainments, amusements and professions and why luxuries were exempted. (Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Turf Club.) I do not know why taxes on betting and the machinery for realising the same have not been improved upon. I do not know any of these things. But these considerations bring me face to face with the most fundamental problem, namely, the problem of the social background against which the whole budgetary scheme has been drawn and lead me to believe that the present Government is simply acting as the executive of the ruling capitalist class of the society. I wish I were mistaken and I wish the Finance Minister in arriving at the result of his survey of the possible sources of taxation were guided by the one fundamental principle, namely, that what matters is not the amount of tax realised but the amount left after taxation.

Sir, I, find myself confronted with another problem, no less important, nay, more important than that of taxation, namely, the problem of utilization of money realised by taxation How is it going to be spent? Is it going to be spent as doles here and doles there as it is done in this year's Budget, is it going to be utilised for providing high salaries for men at the top, or is it going to be spent to carry on a well-planned war, implacable and relentless war, on destitution and poverty, unemployment and squalor, famine and flood, disease and destitution? These are the problems, these are the questions which are agitating the minds of tax-payers, and they have every right to ask Government these questions and demand of them an answer. I have not the time at my disposal to deal with all the problems raised in the Budget, but I have been commissioned by my leader to speak a few words on co-operation, and I will confine myself to that.

In this year's Budget Co-operation has been given some increase. There has been for the last few years a progressively increased grant to this department, but I am sorry to find that there has also been a progressive deterioration in the working of this department. It goes without saying—and there is no denying the fact—that the co-operative movement is in a very bad state. Let me quote the words of the Registrar which I find quoted in to-day's leading article of *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—

"New business having stopped, almost a complete stagnation has now come upon the agriculture credit movement" and he has urged on the Government, "to devise means as early as possible for saving the

agricultural credit movement from impending collapse with which it is threatened at present."

That is the position with which we are faced so far as the co-operative movement is concerned. I maintain that even in this deplorable state of the movement Co-operation is full of promise and fraught with immense possibilities for the future, provided that co-operative principles and practice accepted all the world over are not thrown to the winds, as they are done by the Co-operative Department at present. I will read a few lines from the statement of the Hon'ble Finance Minister who has very kindly devoted a larger space than is usual to Co-operation. He says: "The great problem, however, of the co-operative Credit Department is still the rehabilitation of the movement in the esteem of the people of the province. For this purpose a scheme designed to bring the demands of the societies down to the level of the paying capacity of the debtors is under preparation. I hope the House will hear more of the scheme in the near future." We do not know what scheme is under preparation, but I have seen the scheme prepared by the Registrar; and if that is the scheme which the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has in mind, then that scheme should be subjected to a very careful scrutiny and after the scheme has been subjected to such a scrutiny by an independent body consisting mainly of non-officials and co-operative experts, it should be considered, accepted and given effect to.

May I point out through you, Sir, to the Government that the way in which the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Co-operation is acquiescing in the positively detrimental steps that are being taken by the Registrar is the way not to rehabilitation or reconstruction, but to ruination and destruction May I ask the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Co-operation —whom I find absent now—may I ask him why he hastened to open a branch of the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank at Dacca? His speech delivered on the occasion and as reported in the Amrita Bazar Patrika contained every other blessed thing save the reasons for founding a branch of the said bank. I had occasion to refer to a prominent director of that bank who is a nominee of the Registrar, but he could not give me any satisfactory answer: something has got to be done, he said, to keep the movement going. Is this the way in which the movement will have to be kept going? The better course, then, is that the movement should cease to exist and that a stop be put to its further march of defrauding the public and embarrassing the Government.

Sir, I can understand the principle of the provincial banks catering to the needs of primary societies direct without the intermediary of the central banks, but I cannot understand the branches of the provincial bank being pitted against the central banks in the local areas.

I come next to the problem of hasty organization of societies. Members of this House will perhaps be staggered to hear that even during the hey-day of the co-operative credit movement from 1922-28 societies were formed, on the admission of the Registrar, at the rate of 2,000 per year, but take it from me that it was only during two months of the year 1939 that as many as 6,300 or 6,500 societies were organized. Sir, what justification has he—at this day when consolidation and not expansion should be the watchword—to organize more than 6,000 societies in two months?

(At this stage the member reached the time-limit and resumed his seat.)

Khan Bahadur FAZLUL QADIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I begin my speech I quote some figures of the Registration Department for the years 1937, 1938 and 9 months of 1939 (January to September) in order to place before the House the real situation through which rural Bengal is passing at present, on account of the introduction of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act and legislation of Money-lenders Bill. The figures will give the House a clear idea as to how lands are gradually passing out of the hands of *raiyats*:—

	1937.	1938.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Total sale or exchange .	3,34,573	4,12,358	77,785	..
2. Mortgages . ..	3,02,520	1,64,895	..	1,37,634
3. Total Registration	11,22,850	10,94,333	.	28,517

From January to September, 1939, the sales registered were Rs. 5,09,842 which is an increase of Rs. 97,484 within 9 months over the whole of last year.

A comparative statement of number of sales of immoveable property for the period from January to September, 1938, and January to September, 1939, supplied by the office of the Inspector-General of Registration, Bengal.

	Total number of sales of immoveable property.	Aggregate value of the properties transferred.
1938.	Rs.	Rs.
January to September . . .	2,49,801	6,07,13,147
1939.		
January to September .	5,09,842	9,43,46,377

Commenting on the figures as stated, the Inspector-General of Registration in his Administrative Report for the year 1938 remarks, "that lands are gradually passing out of the hands of *raiyats* rendering them more helpless and impoverished."

I think some effective steps must be taken by Government at once to stop this alarming transfer of lands by cultivators which has been undoubtedly done in most cases with a view to raising capital for ordinary agricultural operation.

In this connection I would like to draw the serious attention of the House to the ludicrously low provision of Rs. 5 lakhs made in the Budget under the head "Loans and Advances." It is a well-known fact that 70 per cent. of the Bengal population lives in the village and a fairly good proportion of them is at present unable to raise their crop properly or make any attempt to improve their economic condition in other ways particularly due to shrinkage of capital in the countryside. The previous Governments left them to the mercy of the money-lenders for ages which increased their debts and ruined them financially. The present Government in their solicitude to help them have brought into being the Debtors Act and the Money-lenders Act. These Acts whatever relief they are capable of giving the agriculturists have practically killed the rural credit. The result has been that the poor middle-class cultivators who are on the border line of solvency and who are expected to strive hard to improve their economic condition cannot raise even small loans without selling their lands outright.

It will thus appear that even with the best intention of helping the agriculturists by lightening their burden of debts Government are driving them to the position of landless labourers. By these acts Government have severely restricted the credit of the agriculturists, while at the same time made no arrangement for establishing a suitable credit agency. I should consider this as an extremely short-sighted policy of Government. Relief measures such as scaling down of the debts of the agriculturists on the basis of the repaying capacity and limiting the rate of interest on borrowings may be good to some extent for a temporary period, but no relief measures are capable of ameliorating the economic condition of the agriculturists. For such improvement, facilities should be provided to them for better farming and better marketing of their produce and thereby to increase their income. I find no indication in the Hon'ble the Finance Minister's Budget speech that Government propose to do anything of the kind to help the 70 per cent. population of this province in achieving their most vital need, viz., keeping their body and soul together. The paltry sum of Rs. 5 lakhs provided under the head "Loans and Advances" for 70 per cent. of the population who are the mainstay in the country only bespeak of the callousness and indifference of Government to the most vital problem of the day, namely, the Rural Credit. It is surprising that a Government which claims to be formed of the people and for the people should be so indifferent to the need of the bulk of the population. As an excuse for small provision the Hon'ble the Finance Minister

said that the raiyats received good price of staple crops. But the *bona fide* cultivators were not fully benefited by the rise in price as they had to sell most part of their crops before the price rose.

It must be conceded, however, that it was a wise move on the part of the Co-operative Department last year to form 5,500 new crop loan societies along with several large sale societies for marketing of the produce of the members. Government supplied Rs. 13½ lakhs to the provincial bank to finance these societies, and I have been informed that by this time about 90 per cent. of this loan has already been repaid before due date. From the figures of the Registration Department it appears that transactions to the value of 17 crores take place in bonds, mortgages, leases and by sales. To meet the urgent demand of the people the provision of Rs. 5 lakhs in this year's Budget is a drop in the ocean.

Before I give a constructive suggestion in this connection I would like to sound a note of warning to Government that unless immediate steps are taken to stop the sale of lands by the cultivators for raising loans for their agricultural operations the rural areas will abound with landless labourers in the near future which will provide a most dangerous field for the germination of the seed of communism

In my opinion the best available agency for supply of credit facilities to the cultivators for raising their seasonal crops is the co-operative societies. A larger number of these societies should be immediately established throughout the rural areas for giving short-term loan for productive purposes. Arrangement should also be made at the same time to introduce an agricultural programme for intensive cultivation of various crops and also to market the crop by elimination of the middlemen's profit. I would propose that Government should raise a loan of Rs. 2 crores immediately for supply of rural credit. As regards Education: I would like to place before the House the most deplorable condition of Muslim girls' education There are 67 non-Government girls' secondary schools in Bengal, of them there is not a single high english school run by Muslims. Only there are three or four middle english schools. Of these three or four, one is just raising its status to that of a high English school at Chittagong. I shall cite some concrete cases how the development of Muslim female education is being retarded. Last year Government sanctioned 1 lakh of rupees for additional grant to non-Government secondary schools for girls, out of this Rs. 45,000 was placed at the disposal of the Inspectress of Schools, Dacca Circle, but the poor Muslim institution of Chittagong has not been favoured with Rs. 45 even.

Muslims of Chittagong have been constantly trying for the establishment of a Muslim female training school at Chittagong like the one at Calcutta for the last three years, but to their utter despair they find it being shelved on some plea or other by the officers, who are in power. Representation after representation has been made to the authorities,

even last of all to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister in October, 1939, but to no effect. Why this is happening? Because there is no Muslim Inspectress in the province. There are two, both are non-Muslim. Of the 12 Assistant Inspectresses only one is a Muhammadan stationed at Calcutta.

We therefore strongly urge the Hon'ble Minister to take note of it and redress the long felt grievance of the Muslim community and to give effect to the recommendations of the Muslim Advisory Committee of 1935 at an early date

I am particularly interested in the development of cottage industries. In this connection I like to point out that Muslims are extremely backward and no encouragement whatsoever is given to them. The report of the Publicity Department Bengal Ministry and the Hindus of Bengal—has opened our eyes and it appears from page 28, Table C, that out of Rs. 5,15,120 only Rs. 46,935, *i.e.*, 11 per cent. are being spent for Muslim training in non-Government technical schools and the balance of 89 per cent. for Hindus and other non-Muslims.

I will cite two concrete cases for the information of the House. In Chittagong I have started an Industrial Home for Muslim Girls in 1937. Since then we are getting only Rs. 80 a month as recurring grant. For the last two years I am trying for an increased grant of Rs. 400 a month on special consideration for poor Muhammadan girls training and to develop and reorganise it After a prolonged correspondence it has been turned down by the Finance Department But the Finance Department was very generous to porvide Rs 20,000 as capital grant for Vidyasagar Bani Bhavan, Rs 5,000 for Belur Industrial School, Rs 2,000 for Mission Industrial School, Faridpur. Last year Government was pleased to provide Rs. 30,000 for the Saroj Nalini Industrial Home; besides Hindu Industrial Schools are getting very liberal recurring grants such as Nari Sikhya Samiti, about Rs. 17,000, Saroj Nalini Industrial Home about Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000, and so on.

But the Muslim enterprises are being throttled and no encouragement is given to develop.

I would, therefore, must strongly urge the Government to reserve a portion of the grant to be spent annually as recurring and non-recurring expenditure for the advancement of technical education among Muslim males and females.

I will cite another concrete case. A proposal was submitted to the Government for the establishment of a Leather Training and Trading School at Chittagong, as raw materials to the worth of Rs. 16,00,000 are being exported annually from Chittagong. I proposed to make a free gift of land; the site was selected in July, 1939, and I understand the scheme has got the administrative approval and plans and estimates

prepared, but to my utter despair I did not find it in the Budget. Perhaps the Finance Department was also very kind to throw it out as the proposal came from a Muslim member. But Rs. 23,891 has been provided for other new expenditure, Rs. 50,000 for Brathachari, and Rs. 66,000 for the electrification of the Manipur Farm.

I, therefore, most earnestly draw the serious attention of the Government towards this scheme and urge the Government to provide funds in the Revised Budget of July next.

As regards disafforestation of some portion of reserve and protected forests and providing sufficient land for free grazing, nothing has yet been done by the Government. The Inquiry Committee appointed for deforestation of Rampur and Charandip Blocks in Cox's Bazar subdivision have not yet completed their inquiries and have not submitted their report. I do not find any reason for an Inquiry Committee like this except to delay the matter, so that the enthusiasm of the people and the members be subsided. We are not going to stop here. We must have free grazing land and deforestation of some culturable land to provide food and home for the poor homeless labourers and to increase Government revenue. The Bodar Khale Colonisation Scheme has every success and so we must push up the new schemes and urge Government to expedite the matter.

As regards Debt Settlement Board, it is very regrettable that in spite of our repeated requests to the authorities, from the Circle Officer to the Hon'ble Minister, our prayer for the establishment of Debt Settlement Boards in each union has not yet been fruitful. Only 90 Debt Settlement Boards have been formed out of 180. Still 90 Debt Settlement Boards remain to be formed. I, therefore, request the Government not to deprive Chittagong of this benefit and establish Debt Settlement Boards in the remaining unions this year

Maulvi AHMAD ALI MRIDHA: Sir, I am in duty bound that I must begin by congratulating the Hon'ble the Finance Minister on his presenting the Budget in which there are some provisions for ameliorating the conditions of our people. Sir, as I do congratulate him, I feel, at the same time, it is my duty to speak out my mind where I find some cause for disappointment. Like many members in this House, I belong to the rural area, and, therefore, I feel there must be something done for the benefit of the rural people. My idea was that Govrnment must be in a position to do that and every villager in every village may know that there is a Government existing for their benefit. My object was not to see the entire grievances of the people removed all at once by magic. But my desire was to see that at least one measure was adopted in which all people could see some benefit being done to them. Then, Sir, my idea was that even if other items were to be left in the position in which they were, it was the clear duty of

the present popular Government to see that one measure at least was undertaken by which relief could be given in all directions so that every man might know that there was a Government behind him to do him good. My thought being that, I tried to make my point clear in the beginning in the year 1937, when I made my maiden speech. Primary education is one item where we felt that though every other item could be postponed, it should not be put off. We gave for this purpose a clean slate to the ministry to write on and we gave the ministry the entire authority to do anything they liked, even to impose a fresh taxation in order to provide free primary education for the entire people of Bengal. We also insisted that primary education should be made compulsory in the shortest space of time. Unfortunately even a beginning has not been made in some districts. In my own district I see that primary education has been introduced and an attempt made to establish a School Board. A School Board has been very lazily established. I least expected such things because my idea was that though every other thing could wait, primary education should not be made to wait. I would have been much happier had I seen in my district that all boys were getting free primary education. I feel now greatly disappointed because nothing has been done.

Of course, in the beginning the argument was that there was not enough money which could be called cultivators' money, and therefore the cultivating portion of the population could have been left alone. Now, I find that the first item in the Budget is Rs. 2·20 lakhs. That is from jute tax. That is to my mind entirely cultivators' money. This money was not available before 1933-34, and it was made available only in 1934-35. Later there was an increase in the percentage and now the amount has come to Rs. 2·20 lakhs. Who is the owner of that money? To that simple question, the answer is that it is the cultivators alone who own jute and who sell it. On that taxation is levied and money is collected. If there is at all any person who can lay claim to ownership of the money, it is only the cultivators. This jute tax should have been earmarked for imparting primary education to rural people in Bengal, but the Government thought it wise to divert the money to make up the deficit in the Budget. The money which the poor people were paying was not used for any purpose which would be to their benefit. They were not getting any benefit from Government in pre-Reform days. At that time we accused the Government but now there is no reason why the present popular Government should continue to be run on the same old bureaucratic lines. We have been trying to reflect in this House the demands of the people in the villages and we desire to see this money earmarked in the Budget as being the share of the cultivators. We made that point clear in 1937. The cultivators could have been exempted from taxation. Though they have not been exempted, I have embraced the legislation that is there

for primary education. I embrace the measure that the Government have taken for spreading primary education in the villages. But, Sir, there must be imagination. They must be dealing with this matter as speedily as possible.

Coming to the other items I can think of even deprovincialisation of high school education and college education, and all that. I can even cherish the idea of cutting off all connections of these high schools and colleges with our provincial revenues. Sir, I do grudge the money spent on the teaching of our boys in high schools and colleges. If you do not do it, well, still I hope and expect in all earnestness that you would give us primary education without any delay, that is all we want.

Now, Sir, coming to the position of the Budget, I think that it is still the same as in the past years, on the lines of bureaucratic form as in the past; it is a copy of the last year's Budget when Mr. Sarkar was in charge. No improvement worth mentioning is there, because there is nothing for the amelioration of the poor people of the villages. Of course, you have done something, but I must say that the grants have not been distributed with imagination. Some sort of doles have been given to the members of the Treasury Benches nobody has been refused and everybody has got some sort of dole but the fattest and the bulkiest boy has got the largest share. I expected reduction in the expenditure on Police, General Administration and also in the expenditure on Administration of Justice. I also expected a definite increase of expenditure under the head "Industries." A definite attempt should have been made to improve our industries. But it is disappointing to see that there is no change there I do not agree to this; I join issue and shall continue to join issue with this state of things. For instance, the salt industry should be improved. The Budget provides nothing as income or expenditure on salt. This is disappointing.

Coming to the Department of Co-operation, I must say that there is only patching and tinkering there. There is nothing of imagination. The flow of rural credit has been choked and if anybody is responsible for this, it is the Legislature. The Legislature is responsible for the change in legislation. The rural *mahajans* are fighting shy of lending any money for the relief of the people in time of their need. That is again the reason why the Legislature should take the responsibility for providing money to the people in their need. Sir, the Budget is silent —not only silent but it is vocal, I should say, in saying that no provision should be made for giving any agricultural loan and rural credit this year. The Hon'ble Finance Minister knows as he has toured in the mufassal how the villagers live in the grip of famine. This year 14 districts were in the grip of famine and they are not yet in prosperous condition. In some parts of these affected districts there has been loss

of crops again. In many subdivisions and districts people are in distress—multiplied distress—distress added to distress. Sir, for these reasons money should have been provided for agricultural loans and for rural credit. Government paid money last year as agricultural loans and they did that ungrudgingly. When they gave relief to the people we were so grateful, our people were so grateful and the action of Government was so highly praised by them In their turn they have paid back the entire money. In the mufassal wherever the Hon'ble Ministers went they received ovation and we also congratulated them on the achievement they had on the last occasion. But, Sir, that is no reason to think that the grievances of the people have been removed altogether Some relief should be given to the people in the shape of agricultural loans now that they are in distress Sir, as I have said, rural credit has almost been choked. We must also provide for rural credit. There is a great duty cast on the Hon'ble Minister in this respect. Co-operation in the past had been declared to be a failure entirely. But through the activities of the Co-operative Department there has been something of a rejuvenation There has been some improvement through the efforts of the Registrar who is doing his best and the Hon'ble Minister in charge is doing his best as also the staff of the department are doing their level best and there are signs of improvement in the village societies. Sir, in this condition when you have started doing good you must also see to the finish. You must see that the rural societies which are almost dead are rejuvenated and remodelled The rotten portion must be chopped off and the other portion must be brought to life back again so that people may see that co-operation is not a failure, but it is a success The expansion of co-operation is a necessity, and it must be expanded on the lines suggested by the Cabinet some time ago We have got some Bills also and we have become very much hopeful, but this Budget has disappointed us Why that idea has been abandoned, it is not possible for us to imagine. We must see that something is done again just to give relief in the shape of expansion of the co-operative movement along the lines of produce societies and some institutions of the kind of warehouses. Such institutions will no doubt give some sort of protection to the cultivators. With all humility I insist upon our Government to attend to all these needs of our people.

Coming to "Industries" I find that up till now not a single institution has been started at the inspiration of Government. If anything has been done in this direction, it is due to private enterprise. The other day I visited the farm of Alla Mohan Das at Howrah. The place is known as Das Nagar. If any man ever lived in Bengal who made his life worth living it is Alla Mohan Das. Anybody may go there and see what he has done there. What a small man he was, but what a great achievement he has made in the way of development of industries.

He has made possible the manufacture of machinery in his own factory. The manufacture and the use of these machineries can be seen there. Alla Mohan Das is a great man. Though he is a Hindu, still I have great admiration for him, because he has done a great deal for the amelioration of the condition of himself as well as of his neighbours, his relations and his countrymen. So he is a great man.

I have visited the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works and there, what has not been manufactured by the efforts of Sir P. C. Roy!

The Industries Department should have imagination and they should encourage such an enterprise, big or small, by private individuals or by people jointly forming themselves into joint stock companies or working on co-operative lines.

In our country sugarcane is grown and grown in abundance; still more facilities should be provided for growing the article, and machinery is needed for crushing the cane and converting the juice into sugar.

(Here the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. MAQBUL HOSAIN: মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, অর্থসচিব মাননীয় মিঃ সুহরাওয়ার্দ্দী ইং ১৯৪০-৪১ সালের বাজেট পেশ করিয়া যে বক্তৃতা দিয়াছেন তাহাতে তিনি অনেক অবান্তর কথা বলিয়াছেন। ইংরাজী ১৯৪০-৪১ সনের আয় ধরা হইয়াছে ১৩ কোটি ৯৭ লক্ষ টাকা; আর ব্যয় ধরা হইয়াছে ১৪ কোটি ৫৪ লক্ষ্য টাকা অর্থাৎ বৎসরের শেষে ৫৭ লক্ষ টাকা ঘাটতি পড়িবে। এই ঘাটতি কেন পড়িবে তাহা ঢাকিবার জন্য তাঁহাকে অনেক কথা বলিতে হইয়াছে। প্রাদেশিক স্বায়ত্ব শাসন প্রবর্ত্তনের পর হইতেই যে বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্টের আর্থিক অবস্থা ক্রমশঃ শোচনীয় হইতেছে তাহার আভাষ তিনি দিয়াছেন। তিনি বাজেট বক্তৃতার প্রারম্ভে দুঃখ করিয়া বলিয়াছেন যে অর্থসচিব পদে অধিষ্ঠিত হইয়াই তাঁহাকে ঘাটতি বাজেট উপস্থিত করিতে হইল। কিন্তু তাঁহার এখন এই দুঃখ করার কারণ কি? গত তিন বৎসর হইতে অপব্যয়ের জন্য যে বাজেটে ঘাটতি পড়িয়া আসিতেছে তাহা কি তিনি দেখেন নাই? তিনি ত পূর্ব্ব হইতে মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীতে আছেন। তিনি তখন অপব্যয়ের বাধাদিয়া ঘাটতি নিবারন করেন নাই কেন? প্রাদেশিক স্বায়ত্ব-শাসন প্রবর্ত্তনের পর হইতে কি ভাবে বাজেটে ঘাটতি পড়িয়া আসিতেছে তাহার একটু আভাষ দিতেছি। বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্টের সমস্ত খরচ নির্ব্বাহের পর ইং ১৯৩৭-৩৮ সনে তহবিলে ১ কোটি ১৮ লক্ষ টাকা উদ্বৃত্ত ছিল। কিন্তু পর বৎসর অর্থাৎ ইং ১৯৩৮-৩৯ সনে আয় অপেক্ষা ব্যয় বেশী হওয়ায় এক লক্ষ্য টাকা ঘাটতি পড়ে। ইং ১৯৩৯-৪০ সনে যে বাজেট উপস্থিত করা হয় তাহাতে ৮৭ লক্ষ টাকা ঘাটতির বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছিল এবং ইং ১৯৪০-৪১ সনের বাজেট হইতে আমরা জানিতে পারি যে বৎসরের শেষে ৫৭ লক্ষ টাকা ঘাটতি পড়িবে।

এই হিসাব হইতে আমরা দেখিতে পাই যে বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীসভার মন্ত্রীত্ব গ্রহণের পর হইতে বাংলা সরকারের আয় অপেক্ষা ব্যয় বেশী হওয়ায় বাজেটে প্রতি বৎসর ঘাটতি পড়িয়া আসিতেছে। এবং এই ঘাটতির পরিমাণ মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর মন্ত্রীত্ব গ্রহণের পর হইতে বর্ত্তমান বাজেট পর্য্যন্ত ১৯৩৭-৩৮ সালের উদ্বৃত্ত টাকা সহ তিন বৎসরের মোট ২ কোটি ৬৩ লক্ষ টাকা।

ঘাটতি গঠনমূলক কিম্বা জনহিতকর কাজ করার ফলে যদি বাজেটে ঘাটতি পড়িত তাহা হইলে আমরা ব্যবস্থাপক সভাকে দোষ দিতাম না। কিন্তু মন্ত্রিগণ গরীব কৃষকপ্রজার উপকারের কোন কাজও এ পর্যন্ত করেন নাই বরং কোন কাজের প্রস্তাব পর্যন্ত করেন নাই। ইঁহারা ঘাটতি গঠনমূলক কাজ দেখিতে উৎসুক মাননীয় অর্থসচিব তাঁহাদিগকে অপেক্ষা করিতে উপদেশ দিয়াছেন।

এ বৎসরের বাজেটে কৃষি বিভাগ ও দুর্ভিক্ষ বিভাগ হইতে যথাক্রমে ৬ লক্ষ ও ৭ লক্ষ টাকা কমান হইয়াছে। মন্ত্রীমহোদয় কি মনে করেন যে এবৎসর দুর্ভিক্ষ হইবে না এবং কৃষি বিভাগের জন্য আর খরচ করার কোন প্রয়োজন নাই? উক্ত বিভাগগুলি হইতে বরাদ্দ কমানের যে কারণ প্রদর্শন করা হইয়াছে তাহা অত্যন্ত অযৌক্তিক।

হিন্দু মহাসভার নেতৃবৃন্দের চাজ্জসীটের উত্তরে মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী যে বিবৃতি প্রকাশ করিয়াছেন তাহাতে দেখা যায় যে কেবল সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতন বাবত বৎসরে ৬ কোটি ৫৮ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ হয় এবং মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর বেতন, ভাতা, দার্জ্জিলিংএ শৈলবিহার প্রভৃতি বাবত মোট ১০ লক্ষ টাকা প্রতি বৎসর খরচ হয়। কর্ম্মচারীর বেতনে যে দেশে এত টাকা খরচ হয়, সে দেশে জনহিতকর কাজ করিবার জন্য টাকা পাওয়া যাইবে কোথা হইতে?

বর্ত্তমান বৎসরের বাজেটে বাংলা দেশের কোন স্থানের জন্য ছিটে ফুটা কাজের ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে; কিন্তু ত্রিপুরার জন্য কোনও কাজের ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। প্রত্যেক বৎসর ত্রিপুরা জিলার গোমতী নদীর প্লাবনে সমগ্র বুড়িচং থানা এবং অন্যান্য থানার কতক বিধ্বস্ত হইতেছে। প্রজাগণ প্লাবন হইতে রক্ষা পাইবার জন্য বহুকাল যাবৎ আন্দোলন করিয়া আসিতেছে। ব্রাহ্মণবাড়িয়া সব-ডিভিসনের তিতাস নদী চড় পড়িয়া ভরাট হইয়া যাওয়ায় প্রতি বৎসর দুর্ভিক্ষ হইতেছে। উক্ত সব-ডিভিসনের আখাউড়া একটি প্রসিদ্ধ বন্দর। আখাউড়া হইতে উজানীসার পর্যন্ত তিতাস নদীর ৪ মাইল পরিমিত স্থান চড় পড়িয়া যাওয়ায় যানবাহন চলাচল বন্ধ হইয়াছে। ইহাতে উক্ত এলাকার ব্যবসা বানিজ্যের প্রভূত ক্ষতি হইতেছে। আমি এ সবসম্বন্ধে মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণের জন্য চেষ্টা করিয়াও প্রতিকার পাই নাই। আশা করি তাঁহারা আমাদের জিলার এই সমস্ত অভাব অভিযোগের প্রতিকার করিবেন।

Mr. UPENDRANATH EDBAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset of my Budget discussion for 1940-41, I must frankly say that the Budget Estimate for the coming year is a most disappointing one, as it has almost failed to adequately provide for the nation-building departments. I have very carefully gone through the statement by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in presenting the Budget for 1940-41.

This is the fourth time that I am going to criticise the Budget Estimate, but I am very sorry to find that no improvement, nothing of the kind, has been done and no digression from the old course of action has been effected in it, although we all expected that new schemes for nation-building departments would evolve and considerable provisions would be made for them in the Budget.

Let us now turn to Appendix No. II given at the last page of the Budget Statement. What do we find therein? We find that the biggest sum of money amounting to Rs. 1,59,72,000 has been provided for Civil Works for the coming year, while a provision of Rs. 1,57,47,000 has been made for General Education in Bengal—a lesser sum than that

of Civil Works. Of all the departments of public interest, in my opinion Education stands foremost, yet a larger sum of money has not been budgeted for the same. It is no doubt a matter for great regret. It is education and education alone which will place Bengal, nay India, on an equal footing with all other countries of the world. So we should not be indifferent to give timely pressure upon the Government so that it may provide the biggest sum of money for general education in future.

One most peculiar aspect of the Educational Budget for the coming year is this, that in the new items of expenditure not a single head stands for the advancement of Scheduled Caste education in Bengal. It is admitted on all hands that the Scheduled Castes of Bengal are far more backward than the Muhammadans in all respects; yet not a single drop of money for these poor souls in the new items of expenditure for their uplift!

I cannot understand how can a responsible Government be so indifferent to the interests of a big community which consists of so many Scheduled Castes and which in all equity deserves to be educationally encouraged in all possible ways. I raise a note of warning not to be so indifferent to the interests of the Scheduled Castes.

If we now turn to the Agricultural Budget for the coming year, what do we find therein? We find that the new items of expenditure include a provision of Rs. 2,30,232 for the improvement of the Department of Agriculture. But I doubt that most of the budgeted sum will be spent, as it is clearly shown from the Schedules of Expenditure, in meeting the cost of establishments of various agricultural institutes, of payment of salaries of different officers, high and low, and so on, but not on real and practical improvement of the "man behind the plough" who is the backbone of the country. You all will agree with me on this point that if the present conditions of the peasants of the country are not improved and if no constructive programmes of works are submitted before the House for their general amelioration, I believe nothing is done for them. If the peasantry of Bengal is, due to our utter indifference, ruined to-day, I can boldly say "Bengal will be ruined to-morrow."

Let us now discuss the Budget for Public Health. In the coming year's Budget an increase of Rs. 7,04,000 has been provided for Public Health over the revised one for 1939-40. As far as this department is concerned, the Hon'ble Minister has tried his best to do justice to it, and I am really glad to find that the Public Health Budget includes 7½ lakhs of rupees for rural water-supply, 5 lakhs for free distribution of quinine, 2½ lakhs for anti-malaria schemes and 1½ for kala-azar and other epidemic diseases and ½ lakh for maternity and child welfare

centres and so on. Besides these what deserves our hearty commendation is this, that in respect of water-works improvement schemes one lakh for Dacca, Rs. 29,000 for Munshiganj, Rs 26,000 for Pirojpur and Rs. 18,000 for Jhalakati have been provided for in the Budget for 1940-41. However, this is also an inadequate provision for so big a department like Public Health. I have every faith and confidence that it will be better provided in near future.

As to industries which will go to increase the wealth of the country and then to improve the economic condition of Bengal, I have got to say that the Budget Estimate for the same is quite amazing. We expected that better schemes and plans would be presented before us for wholesale reorganisation of the department, but now we find to our utter surprise that we are mistaken The industrial department requires to be better equipped with money. Time was when Bengal was noted for Dacca Muslin. If Government take special care of this department, I can guarantee that the lost glory of Bengal for industries will be revived.

With these few words I resume my seat.

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Mr. Speaker, I must begin by congratulating the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for the presentation of the Budget. So far as I am concerned, Sir, I am not disappointed because I think in this war time we cannot expect a better Budget and a better presentation of the Budget from the new Finance Minister. I do not like to take much of the time of this House by dilating on the various points referred to in the Budget speech of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, but, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Works with regard to a particular grievance of mine and I hope, Sir, that he will kindly take a note of the grievance which I am placing before this House. This is, Sir, with regard to the improvement of a part of the trunk road from Pabna to Behar boundary *via* Bogra, Rangpur and Birganj, route No. 14 of the schemes for road development in Bengal as prepared by the Special Officer. So far as the Rangpur district is concerned, this is a very important road as it connects the district headquarters with all the important *hâts* and *bundars* of the southern part of the district. The Eastern Bengal Railway passing from Gaibandha to Rangpur cannot at all serve the traffic of this area which is nearly one-fourth of the Rangpur district including the thanas of Mithapukur-Pirganj, Gobindaganj, etc., and the inconvenience of the public knows no bounds. The most important road in this area is the Rangpur-Bogra road which passes through the *hâts* of Gobindaganj, Palashbari, Dhaperhat, Pirganj, Sathibari, Mithapukur, Jaigirhat, etc.

The Hon'ble the Prime Minister happened to go to Sathibari, a distance of 16 miles from the town along this road, and he was much impressed by its very great importance from the point of view of jute traffic. The local people who assembled in thousands to see the Prime Minister prayed for the speedy improvement of this road and through me, the representative of the local people, he gave them an assurance that this would be done. Rangpur contributes not a small part of the Road Development Fund by way of petrol tax It is unfortunate that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister who made this promise only on the 29th of January is not here. I do hope that the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Public Works Department will take note of this assurance that the local people had from the Chief Minister only on the 29th of January last.

Then, with regard to the Public Works Department, I have another point to mention. I am sorry I do not find any mention of the rest-houses for jurors in the Budget. The legal practitioners, some of whom are members of this House, know very well that the housing problem of the jurors is a very important one which should not be lost sight of in these days when corruption sometimes prevails everywhere. I do hope, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Works Department will make provision for the rest-houses of the jurors so that they might not be contaminated by outside talk in criminal cases.

Then, coming to primary education, I am sorry to say that it is really disappointing as we do not find that the promises of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister have been implemented in any way. For the last few years we have been crying hoarse for primary education, even with education cess if necessary, but unfortunately up till now Government have not taken any action in this matter. The Chief Minister had asked on past occasions if the people were willing to pay education cess and said that if they were willing to pay education cess, Government would make primary education free and compulsory within a short space of time. But no steps have as yet been taken by the Government. And I take this opportunity of inviting the pointed attention of the Government in regard to this matter. This is, I think, a matter on which every member of this House will agree with me, and we hope that very soon a cess will be imposed on all districts and primary education will be made compulsory.

So far as the expenses of education are concerned, Rs. 50,000 has been provided for dancing which is otherwise known as Bratachari. I am surprised to find that money has been provided for dancing which is nothing but a sort of amusement to certain students. I hope the Hon'ble the Finance Minister will kindly make a note of this. I am sure I voice the opinion of the majority of the members of this House when I say that this expenditure is unnecessary.

Then, Sir, I quite agree with the Leader of the Opposition that unfortunately the expenditure on administration has not decreased but has rather increased. May I refer the Cabinet, through you, Sir, to the resolution which had been passed on the 24th August, 1939, regarding the compulsory retirement of all Government officers on the completion of 25 years of service. But no step whatsoever has been taken as yet. So far the late Finance Minister presented a White Book just to show that this was not economical. But I do not agree with his opinion. The resolution should be given effect to as soon as possible.

Then, Sir, with regard to rural reconstruction and development expenditure I find that some improvement has been made, but although I find that three lakhs of rupees has been given to District Officers for distribution, a further sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs has been interspersed under various Budget heads at the disposal of the Director of Rural Reconstruction. I think this dual control over this matter by the District Officers and the Director of Rural Reconstruction will hamper the work, and some sort of solution will be necessary to carry out the work.

Now, coming to the Veterinary Department, it appears that recently Government have taken the control of the Veterinary Assistants from the District Boards in their own hands. The result has been, as we all know very well, that the people are not getting proper medical help from the veterinary assistants. Whenever there is an epidemic in mufassal, and the people approach the District Officers who instead of sending Veterinary Assistants direct sometimes direct them to inform their *peskars* or their other subordinates, and in this way the people suffer greatly. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Veterinary Department will kindly take a note of this so that the people might not be put to trouble in this way.

Coming to the Agricultural Department I find that although it is a disappointing Budget, Rs. 66,000 has been provided for the electrification of the Manipur Farm at Dacca, which is a sort of luxury and not a necessity. This may be postponed, and with the money thus saved relief may be given to a large number of people.

Before I conclude I would like to draw the pointed attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Works as well as of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education to the facts I have already stated and would request the Chief Minister to try to give effect to the promises which he has given to a large number of people.

Mr. C. GRIFFITHS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in dealing with the Budget for 1940-41, I must first mention with regret that the able services of our honourable friend Mr. N. R. Sarker are no longer available to us in the Treasury Benches due to his resignation from the Cabinet. Next I am glad to state that the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy has risen to the occasion as Bengal's Finance Minister and presented us

with quite a reasonable Budget which harmonizes with prevailing conditions. He has had too short a period to deal with so great a subject and, further, when the economic situation is most unsettled. We therefore heartily congratulate the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy.

The Budget presented to us by the Finance Minister is a deficit one —the Receipts being placed at 13 crores 97 lakhs while Expenditure is at 14 crores 54 lakhs, with the result that the sum of 57 lakhs has to be drawn from the opening balance of 1 crore 55 lakhs, and we are told that after a further adjustment of 26 lakhs this balance is reduced to 72 lakhs only.

The question naturally arises whether the Finance Minister was justified in spending this extra 57 lakhs. On examining the total grants for the Police, General Administration and Justice we find that no advances were made on last year's estimated allotments, but on the contrary slight decreases were made and this at a time when it is so necessary to maintain law and order while a major war is being carried on in Europe by the Empire. Again we find that liberal advances have been made on Civil Works, Public Health, Agriculture, Irrigation, Debt Conciliation and Co-operative Credit. I therefore think that we have no just cause for complaint. The Hon'ble Minister very rightly remarks: "Our expenditure has now reached a point at which we are living a little beyond our means and pending a detailed survey of the possible new sources of revenue, there is no alternative but to mark time." We might as well therefore examine the Receipts and Expenditure accounts since Provincial Autonomy began. Our estimated receipts fortunately show a gradual increase as the following figures disclose:—

1937-38		12 crores	55 lakhs.	
1938-39	...	13 ,,	13 ,,	
1939-40	.	13 ,,	78 ,,	
1940-41		13 ,,	97 ,,	

But our estimated expenditure has also gradually risen without bringing any relief to the middle classes on whom during this period various taxes have been imposed. Our expenditures in the corresponding years have been as follows:—

1937-38	..	12 crores	21 lakhs.
1938-39	..	13 ,,	24 ,,
1939-40	...	14 ,,	65 ,,
1940-41	...	14 ,,	54 ,,

Without doubt we have to compliment the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy for being cautious and not only marking time but also falling back a

few paces, for we see that his expenditure of 11 lakhs is less than that of last year. We are alarmed at the statement made by the Finance Minister that he is surveying new sources of revenue. We are told that due to the war the province is enjoying economic prosperity. We are also informed of the fact that the duration of the war being uncertain, no fresh commitments could be made, especially when an inevitable slump follows such prosperity. I am sure, and I feel that most of the members in this House will agree, that if those who are directly benefiting from the effects of the war were asked to contribute towards a new tax, it would be fair and just, and further it would prevent profiteering by inflating prices. It is gratifying to find that the Government has done something to see that the jute-growers have had an adequate price for their produce. I dealt fully with this subject in my Budget speech of 1938-39, and if the Finance Minister were to seriously consider my suggestions in spite of the fact that it comes from one who belongs to a Minority Group in this House, he would, to a great extent, be able to solve the problems that confront us with regard to the poverty and distress of the *raiyats*, employment of the educated middle classes and protection of the pioneers of the jute trade. In this connection I might stress that relief to the *raiyats* should be given by the warehousing system in all districts and then crops be taken over, payments being made to them by a cash deposit system being introduced and all orders being booked in advance by purchasers. The lack of holding power and suitable marketing facilities would thus be overcome.

Finally, Sir, in reviewing the Budget, I find that the Finance Minister in marking time and falling back a few paces by way of curtailing 11 lakhs has taken his toll from the Anglo-Indian and European Education Grant to the extent of Rs. 6,000 as compared against last year's total. He has however given St. Joseph's Home, which provides for our destitute old, Rs. 24,000 for which we are grateful, and I offer him our sincere thanks. (Hear! hear! from the Coalition Benches.)

Mr. ABUL QUASEM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, about a quarter of a century ago Mr. Montague, who was then the Under Secretary of State for India, described the then bureaucratic Government of India as "too wooden and too unimaginative" and put forward a plea for reform by which the administration should pass into the hands of the people of the country. Since then we have had two instalments of Reforms and three years ago the administration of the provinces has passed into the hands of popular Ministers. This Reform was hailed by many of us with high hopes and we thought that a new era had now begun when popular Ministers would initiate bold and progressive programmes of Reform which will mark great strides towards removing

the chronic poverty, sickness and illiteracy of the people and came out a new career of greatness and prosperity on a level with that of the forward nations of the world.

Three years of that popular Government have passed, but we are exactly where we were in 1937. The Budget presented by the Hon'ble Minister now is the same orthodox Budget of the bureaucratic Government, equally wooden, unimaginative and sterile. In three years the Ministry have not yet been able to find a way out of the old ruts. They have not conceived any great project for the amelioration of the people's condition and but for a little cobbling here and a little tinkering there and a few petty sops given here and there, they are carrying on as the bureaucrats of old, just keeping the administration going.

I do not grudge them the little praise they deserve for half-a-dozen or so petty advantages for a handful of Muslims—a small mercy though, and yet one that they could not get before. But, Sir, I cannot too strongly emphasise that the Moslems as a community will not get lasting or substantial benefit by being given jobs. The great bulk of the Moslems like the great bulk of the Hindus are not interested in jobs. They are interested in great schemes for the amelioration of their economic condition, in the spread of universal free primary education, in great sanitary projects for banishing sickness and such like things. On these matters their statemanship has nothing to show. There has been for the past three years much talk about spreading primary education, but little work. About sanitary projects the achievements of our Ministry are sampled by the Hooghly-Howrah flushing scheme which was much talked about but has been apparently shelved.

On the side of economic development the Ministry perhaps meant well, but their endeavours so far as evidenced by their activities regarding money-lending have been confined to efforts to rob Peter to pay Paul. To poor Paul it is some benefit, but it must be remembered that even if all the rich Peters are robbed, it will not go very far to feed the hungry mouths of millions of Pauls. The greatest problem is, not to secure a redistribution but multiplication of the wealth of the people. The resources of Bengal in material as well as man power are more than ample to increase the wealth of Bengal many times over and as the late Sir Daniel Hamilton pointed out over and over again, it could be done by simply organizing the idle labour for wealth production. He also pointed out how the capital needed could be found by monetising the labout. Suggestions like this have been before our popular Government for three years, but nothing has been done yet.

The present is the time when Bengal in common with the rest of India might easily make a great industrial effort with huge promises of success. It is by making full use of the Great War that some neutral countries like Japan established an economic predominance in the world which they have still retained. The Indian Governments

have not yet made efforts to utilise the favourable position which India still has to organise a great industrial offensive, and our Government here is content to be equally somnolent. In these days when all the world has adopted planned economy in greater or less extent, the Government of Bengal has not even had dreams of planning an industrial uplift of India. The Congress Governments of other provinces at least thought about it and appointed an Inter-Provincial Planning Committee. But our Ministry did not think fit even to join in that hopeful project. Let me not be misunderstood. I cannot praise the Congress Governments beyond giving them credit for a thought about it. For I cannot forget that so far as this side of the work is concerned they have just thrown off their job when the opportunity of a lifetime had come. They went off the saddle when it was just the time to take the citadel by storm. Our Government, with the field open before them are just content, as their predecessors were, with their toy-laboratories and institution, with nothing in the shape of great industrial projects to disturb their somnolence.

In agriculture, too, this Government is simply going the way of its predecessors in their pathetic faith in laboratories and institutes. These have their uses only if the work they do is passed on to the cultivator, and it cannot be passed on to the cultivator until there is a great reorganization in the economic life of villages on the lines of what Sir Daniel Hamilton achieved at Gosaba and what could be achieved in a far ampler measure in a hundred thousand villages in Bengal if only the Government put its shoulder to the wheel with great good-will and got a shove on.

Irrigation is the life of agriculture and a means of health and comfort to the rural people. Years ago, Sir William Wilcox made a trenchant criticism of the Irrigation policy of the Government of Bengal and showed that the problem in Bengal could only be effectively solved by a great and comprehensive project. Piecemeal projects, he pointed out, were ineffectual and dangerous. The Government of those days ignored his sugestions. But a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Hopkyns went into the question and made suggestions which did not accept those of Sir W. Wilcox, but agreed with one thing that a comprehensive project had to be made though the working out of the project might be spread over several years. The Government of the day true to its genius promptly acted upon that portion of Hopkyns' report asked for an establishment but held up their hands so far as comprehensive programme was concerned. For the last three years we had a popular Ministry including the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy, who, if I am not mistaken, used in those days to take a lot of interest in Sir William Wilcox's proposals. And yet we are just where we were, limping on with crutches and never thinking of having a run for all we are worth. Representing Western Bengal as I do, I regret most

Government's inactivity in this matter. The whole of the Burdwan Division has been devastated because the Government of the past starved the countryside of its water resources in the interest of navigation in the port of Calcutta and by the embankments of the Damodar. No reparation has been made to the division for these evils of the past, and now, when a popular Government is in power, its Budgets year after year show no signs yet of thinking of grappling with the problem of comprehensive plan for dealing with water resources of Western Bengal.

All the promise that we have of anything in the line is a contour survey of Northern Bengal. At this rate in the course of half a century the Burdwan Division will have a chance of a look in. I need hardly say that we in Western Bengal are not pleased with this continued neglect of irrigation and sanitation in Western Bengal. We cannot help feeling that when the present Government can think of doing any the least good, they always think in terms of Eastern Bengal and Northern Bengal. There was a scheme—the Hooghly-Howrah Flushing Scheme—which bore some hope of good. But it is now rotting in the upper shelves of the Secretariat. Sir, I have been a firm supporter of the Government because I in common with all people of any side of the country had great hopes of the present Ministry. Let me hope that it may yet be given to me to continue in the faith and in the loyalty. I do feel, however, that the want of achievement by the Ministry, their utter failure to plan any improvement of the rural population for all these years, their exclusive preoccupation with Eastern and Northern Bengal to the utter neglect of Western Bengal, is putting a heavy strain on the loyalty of the Government's supporters in Western Bengal. I request the Government not to carry the strain any further.

Mr. AMRITA LAL MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this General Discussion of the Budget, I would not like to enter into the detailed estimates presented to this House by the Hon'ble Finance Minister I desire only to emphasise at this stage certain points in the Budget for I feel that as a provincial account of finances, the Budget now before us for consideration does not give a full picture of Bengal's economic needs, and does not provide for them. It is incomplete in many details and unsatisfactory in many respects. What we get is only a rough sketch of the various items of expenditure that the Government have undertaken or are going to undertake in the impending year and of the various sources of revenue at their disposal. They do not interest us so much as the account of what the Government have done or propose to do for the furtherance of the economic welfare of the masses should. I am sorry to observe that in this respect the people of Bengal should be very much disappointed. In the Budget we get no well-conceived programme of work for the amelioration of

the conditions of the people nor are we given any indications about any such programme to be taken in hand in future. What the Finance Minister has done is only a haphazard distribution of funds among a number of items. About the justification of many of the grants, there may be reasonable doubts, and I am sure that there is even no seeming principle behind such allocation of public funds.

In former Budgets presented to this House we had the pleasure of hearing at least the echo of a constructive programme, although in actual performance we have not got anything to be proud of; but in the present Budget we hear only a sad bewailing over a deficit Budget. Yes, the Finance Minister has had to present a deficit Budget and I have every sympathy with him But what we must deprecate is the manner in which he has allocated the funds. A good few lakhs might easily be saved, if grants to certain institutions of little utility were withheld. Indeed, I should say that while deserving institutions have been deprived of assistance, funds have been provided for unnecessary ends in other directions For my community which I have the honour to represent no suitable programme of uplift has been planned and no adequate funds provided for the purpose Even the recurring grant of Rs. 5 lakhs which was decided upon last year has not been budgeted for And for the Viswavarati which enjoys a worldwide recognition no funds have been provided, although the Government promised to do so. I need not multiply any more instances, for I think the House will have more opportunities to express strong disapproval about many grants that have been made in the Budget.

Over and above, the Finance Minister has assured us that he will be coming with proposals for taxation before the end of the year. One may ask: Why should the people of Bengal be taxed? Is it for any developmental programme? Is it for any work of social uplift that must be carried out even at the cost of the people? I along with many others in this House should be in genuine doubts whether taxes imposed for covering the deficit will be very much relished by the people of Bengal. They have been little benefited by the economic policy of the Government and as such they must not be called upon to bear the burden of unjustifiable taxation.

Adjournment.

It being 8-3 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Thursday, the 22nd February, 1940. at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 22nd February, 1940, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 225 members.

Oath.

The following member took the oath of allegiance to the Crown:—

Mr. J. R. Walker.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Typists and copyists in offices under District and Subdivisional Officers.

*45. **Mr. MUHAMMAD ABUL FAZL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the last 3 years the number of typists and copyists in all the District and Subdivisional Offices of Bengal—

(*i*) with their average monthly income; and

(*ii*) with average fee for briefs?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) why in spite of the minimum earnings of the senior type-copyists of several offices, including Madaripur Subdivisional office, as contemplated under rule 666 of Chapter 5 of High Court Civil Rules and Orders, Volume I, Part IV, additional copyists are being maintained in these offices; and

(*ii*) whether the previous approval of the High Court as required by G. L. No. 8 of 1921 had been obtained for the additional copyists where appointed?

(c) If the answer to (b) (ii) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the numbers and dates of the letters conveying such approval?

(d) Whether there was any sudden increase of work justifying such appointments of additional hands?

(e) If not, what are the reasons for the appointments of additional copyists by several Collectors?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (a) A statement is laid on the Library table.

(b) (i) Rule 666 of Chapter 5 of High Court Civil Rules and Orders, Volume I, Part IV, is not applicable to typists and copyists in District and Subdivisional Offices.

No additional typists or copyists whose employment is not justified by rule 323 of the Bengal Records Manual and rule 2, Chapter X, page 226 of High Court's Rules and Circular Orders (Criminal), Volume I, have been newly appointed.

(b) (ii) and (c) Do not arise in view of the answer to (b) (i).

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Admission of students in the Presidency College, Calcutta.

***46. Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSH:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(i) that during the period of 1936-1938 the authorities of the Presidency College did not give admission to the students to the extent sanctioned by Government;

(ii) that during the said period the total number of students admitted was 160 less than the sanctioned number; and

(iii) that the college has sustained a loss of Rs. 18,000 by way of college fees on this account?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, he proposes to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (a) Yes.

(b) Students must possess a certain minimum intellectual equipment if a proper standard of teaching is to be maintained and students falling below the minimum standard cannot be admitted. However, it is expected that, with the new scholarship rules working, every available seat will be filled.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the passing of the Matriculation Examination is not considered to be the minimum intellectual equipment for students for getting admission into the I.A. and I.Sc. Classes?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The boy who passes in the Third Division is not supposed to have the same intellectual equipment as one who passes in the First.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, I asked if the passing of the Matriculation Examination is not the minimum intellectual equipment?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that students passing in the Third Division are taken in while a student passing in the First Division is refused admission?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That is quite possible.

Income from the estate of Babu Ram Nath Dutt Chaudhuri of Amrajuri, Barisal.

*47. **Mr. UPENDRA NATH EDBAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the annual income of the property of Babu Ramnath Dutt Chaudhuri, a zemindar of Amrajuri, police-station Kaukhali, Bakarganj, which is—

(*i*) under the management of the Court of Wards of Bakarganj, and

(*ii*) under his own management; and

(*b*) the net annual income of the properties within the Kaukhali police-station in the district of Bakarganj—

(*i*) under the Court of Wards, and

(*ii*) under the management of the proprietor?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) Rs. 20,000.

(*ii*) Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 10,000 according to the statement of the proprietor.

(*b*) (*i*) About Rs. 5,000.

(*ii*) Rs. 500 or Rs. 600 according to the statement of the proprietor.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to let us know the reason why only a small portion of the property of Babu Ramnath Dutt Chaudhuri has been taken under the management of the Court of Wards?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Selection of High Madrassahs as Training Centres.

***48. Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether any High Madrassah has been selected as the centre of giving training in the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh and Tippera?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) No High Madrassah has been selected.

(*b*) As a general rule, the standards of staffing and education in High Madrassahs are not as high as the standards in the best High Schools, and therefore no madrassah was selected. But I will look into the matter again and see whether one or more madrassahs cannot be selected.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the reason of this disparity between the standards of High Madrassahs and High Schools?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is too large a question and so it does not arise.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in what respects so far as staffing and education are concerned, the standards are not as high as those in the High Schools?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That is well known. It is a question which is very difficult to answer. Take the staff of any Madrassah and that of a High School and you will find the disparity.

Realisation of tuition fees in Presidency College.

***49. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware that the

students of the second year Arts and Science classes of the Presidency College have been called upon by a notice, dated the 5th October, 1939, to pay their tuition fees from November, 1939, to May, 1940, both the months inclusive, respectively, on the 5th December and the 6th and 7th December, 1939?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons which have led the authorities concerned to realise before the Test Examination, tuition fees for seven months all at once from the intending candidates for the I.A. and I.Sc. examination in contravention of the practice hitherto prevalent?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he proposes to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It has been the usual practice to make students of the second and fourth year classes clear up all dues to the end of the session before the Test Examination. After the students have been permitted to appear at the University examinations the college has no further hold on them.

This year the last date of submitting the Intermediate University fees has been fixed on the 3rd January. The college test has therefore been held on the 8th December and the three following working days.

(*c*) No action is proposed to be taken.

Extension of service granted to officers in Secretariat Departments.

***50. Maulvi MOHAMMED MOZAMMEL HUQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many extensions of service have been granted to officers after 55 years of age in various departments and heads of departments in Writers' Buildings during 5 years ending with 31st October, 1939; and

(*ii*) the names of such officers separately, office by office?

(*b*) Do the Government intend to give further extension to those who are on extension of service at present?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE, COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENTS (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*)(*i*) Nil.

(*ii*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) No; the question does not arise as none of the officers mentioned in the statement is now on extension.

Statement referred to in the reply to part (a)(ii) of starred question No. 50.

Officers granted extension of service during five years ending the 31st October, 1939.	Department.
(1) Mr. A. L. P. White, late Officiating Superintending Engineer, Presidency Circle.	Communications and Works (Communications and Buildings).
(2) Rai J. N. Sarkar Bahadur, late Assistant Secretary, Revenue Department.	Revenue.
(3) Rai Hridaynath Dutta Bahadur, late Deputy Superintendent of Police, Criminal Investigation Department, Bengal.	Home (Police).
(4) Khan Bahadur Mr. Md. Moula Baksh, late Assistant Director of Public Instruction for Muhammadan Education, Bengal.	Education.
(5) Khan Bahadur Maulvi Tasadduq Ahmed, late Assistant Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.	Education.
(6) Khan Bahadur Fazlul Quadir, late Inspector of Registration Offices, Bengal.	Education.
(7) Rai Sahib M. P. Ghosh, late Assistant Director of Civil Veterinary Department, Western Range.	Agriculture and Veterinary.
(8) Rai Sahib Chunilal Mustafi, late Officiating Deputy Director of Agriculture, Western Circle	Agriculture and Veterinary.
(9) Dr. R. B. Khambata, late Director of Public Health, Bengal.	Public Health and Local Self-Government.
(10) Dr. R. C. Ray, late Assistant Director of Public Health, Bengal	Public Health and Local Self-Government.
(11) Dr. Haripada Sarkar, late Assistant Malariologist.	Public Health and Local Self-Government.

Consideration of cases of jute-growers affected by drought in matter of Jute Registration.

*51. **Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department aware—

(i) that there was drought in most parts of Bengal in jute-sowing season in the current calendar year, 1939;

(*ii*) that for the drought a number of cultivators could not grow jute at all this year; and

(*iii*) that a large number of cultivators had sown jute out of season and in a small portion of their jute-producing lands?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of not declaring the current year as a normal year for production of jute in Bengal?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether those plots only in which jute was sown in the current year will be included in the registration of jute areas?

MINISTER in charge of the ACRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*)(*i*) The rainfall was considerably below normal at the beginning of the sowing season.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) I am aware that there were areas principally in North and parts of East Bengal where such cases occurred.

(*b*) No question of declaring the current year as a normal year for production of jute arises.

(*c*) As a general rule, "Yes". But in the areas to which I have referred in (*a*) (*ii*) and (*iii*) above, special instructions have been given to the recording staff to record the area sown with jute in the previous year.

Teachers of Darjeeling Anjuman Islamia Junior Madrassah.

***52. Maulvi MUHAMMAD HASANUZZAMAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the names,

(*ii*) qualifications,

(*iii*) pays, and

(*iv*) home addresses,

of the present teachers of the Darjeeling Anjuman Islamia Junior Madrassah?

(*b*) (*i*) Is it a fact that the Head Master is the Secretary of the madrassah; and (*ii*) if so, whether permission has been given for this dual function?

(*c*) What is the monthly income of the madrassah from—

(*i*) Government grant-in-aid; and

(*ii*) other sources?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the names and addresses of the members of the Managing Committee; and

(*ii*) how many of them are Biharees and Bengalees?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) (*i*) Rs. 150 per month.

(*ii*) Rs. 125 (including a municipal grant of Rs. 90 per month).

(*d*) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (a) (i) to (iv) of starred question No. 52, showing particulars of present teachers of Darjeeling Anjuman Islamia Junior Madrassah.

(*a*) (*i*). Name of teacher.	(*a*) (*ii*). Qualifications.	(*a*) (*iii*) Pay (per month).	(*a*) (*iv*). Home address.	Remarks.
		Rs.		
(1) Mv. Syed Ahmed Hosain, Head Master.	Read up to I.A. and passed teachership examination. Well versed in Persian and Urdu and knows Arabic.	68	Village Mohammadpur, post-office Aruwan, district Saran.	Domiciled in Darjeeling.
(2) M. Jamal Ahmad, 2nd Master.	Read up to I.A.	38	Village Natunpara, post-office Angus, district Hooghly.	
(3) M. Md. Taher, 3rd Master.	Non-Matric ..	30	Village and post-office Hasanpura, district Saran.	
(4) M. Md. Faseeh, Head Maulvi.	Fazil Deoband	42	Post-office Ratsar, district Balia, U. P.	
(5) Hafiz Saghir Ahmed, 2nd Maulvi.	Hafiz and knows Arabic, Urdu and Persian.	37	Village Gopalpur, post-office Bahadurganj, district Purnea.	Domiciled in Darjeeling.
(6) M. Fazlur Rahman, 3rd Maulvi.	Alim, Fazil, and Munshi, Allahabad.	30	Village Mustafabad, post-office Mobarakpur, district Azamgarh, U. P.	

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (d) (i) of starred question No. 52, showing names and addresses of the members of the Managing Committee of the Darjeeling Anjuman Islamia Junior Madrassah.

	Name of member.	Address.	Remarks.
1.	Mr. B. C. Sen Gupta, M.A., B.L.	Sub-Judge and Deputy Magistrate, Darjeeling.	Official President.
2.	Khan Bahadur Dr. Abdul Aziz	Darjeeling ..	Vice-President.
3.	Syed Ahmed Husain ..	Do. ..	Head Master and the Secretary.
4.	M. Hazi Farzand Ahmed, M.A., B.T.	Do. ..	Member.
5.	Khaza Golam Rasul ..	Do. ..	Do.
6.	M. Md. Ishaque Khan ..	Do. ..	Do.
7.	M. Abdul Aziz Shah ..	Do. ..	Do.
8.	Hafiz Qudratullah ..	Do. ..	Do.
9.	Hakim Md. Enayetullah ..	Do. ..	Do.
10.	Hafiz Saghir Ahmed ..	Do. ..	2nd Maulvi (member).

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (d) (ii) of starred question No. 52.

Nos. 6, 7 and 9 are Bengalees; 3, 4 and 10 are Biharees but domiciled in Darjeeling ; and the rest are non-Bengalees but settled in Darjeeling.

Assistant Head Masters of Government Institutions in Dacca Division.

***53. Mr. J. N. GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(a) the names of all Assistant Head Masters at present serving in Government institutions in the Dacca Division;

(b) the dates of their appointments as Assistant Head Masters;

(c) the places of their postings; and

(d) if promotion of any of them to the post of Head Master has been held in abeyance, the reasons for doing so with their names and places of postings?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) to (*c*) A statement furnishing the information is laid on the table.

(*d*) Yes. I am not prepared to disclose the reasons, in the public interest.

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (a) to (c) of starred question No. 53, showing the names of all Assistant Head Masters at present serving in Government Institutions in Dacca Division with the dates of their appointments as Assistant Head Masters and the places of their postings.

Names of all the Assistant Head Masters at present serving in Government Institutions in Dacca Division.	Dates of their appointments as Assistant Head Masters.	Places of their postings.
(1) Mr. Indrajit Das ..	13-4-1939 ..	Mymensingh Zilla School.
(2) Babu Surendra Nath Chatterjee.	23-1-1928 ..	Barisal Zilla School.
(3) Maulvi Abdul Majid ..	28-1-1935 ..	Dacca Collegiate School.
(4) Maulvi Osman Ghani ..	26-3-1935 ..	Dacca Government Moslem High School.
(5) Maulvi Md. Fazlul Kabir ..	3-3-1937 ..	Perojpur Government High School.
(6) Babu Tomash Ranjan Roy	12-5-1937 ..	Armenitola Government High School.
(7) Maulvi Shakur Mahmud ..	6-1-1939 ..	Faridpur Zilla School.
(8) Babu Prasanta Kumar Sen	12-8-1939 ..	Jhalakati Government High School.
(9) Maulvi Sadaruddin Shaikh	17-10-1939 ..	Jamalpur Government High School.
(10) Mr. Bejoy Kumar Datta ..	(Appointed recently; joining date not yet reported.)	Bhola Government High School.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the policy of the Government is to inform the person whose promotion has been held in abeyance?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, Mr. Gupta, your question does not arise because he has not said that the promotion has been withheld.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: The Hon'ble Minister has said in his answer—"Yes. I am not prepared to disclose the reasons in the public interests".

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry. You may put your supplementary question.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that it is the established principle of the Government to inform the person whose promotion has been held in abeyance?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I do not think, Sir, that Government enters into any correspondence with officers who may have been adversely affected by any order.

Persons placed under arrest in connection with Government measures to control profiteering.

***54. Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the names of the persons who were visited by the Calcutta Police on the 5th and 6th September last with a view to check profiteering, and the hours of the day or night when each of them was so visited;

(*ii*) the names of the persons placed under arrest or required to go to Police Headquarters in Calcutta during those dates in connection with Government's measures to control profiteering; and

(*iii*) the charges on which each of such persons was so dealt with?

(*b*) What was the authority under which the police acted as above?

(*c*) Whether the persons placed under arrest were proceeded against in any court of law?

(*d*) If so, with what results?

(*e*) Whether the Calcutta Police acted in this connection under orders of the Provincial Government or otherwise?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*)(*i*) and (*ii*) A statement is placed on the Library table.

(iii) Section 129(*1*)(*a*) read with section 34(*6*)(*g*), (*h*) and (*p*) of the Defence of India Rules, except the cases dealt with by the Bowbazar and the Taltala and Park Street Thanas which were dealt with under section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

(*b*) Under the orders of the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise.

(*e*) Yes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I crave your pardon as I may have to put a large number of supplementary questions as this is a very important matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I ask you not to stand in the way of others?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If I stand in the way of others you shall certainly stop me, Sir.

With reference to the statement, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason that led the police to feel that such persons as Mr Kedernath Khandelwal, Dr. Nalini Ranjan Sen Gupta, Dr. Sivapada Bhattacharyya, Captain Narendra Nath Dutta, Mr. Jagadindra Nath Lahiri, Manager of the Bengal Chemical, were persons contravening section 129(*1*)(*a*) which reads as follows:

"That any Officer may arrest a person having acted or acting or being about to act with intent——

Mr. SPEAKER: You can leave it out.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I have got the rules with me.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: to assist any state at war with His Majesty or in a manner prejudicial to public safety or the official prosecution of war;" read with section 34(*6*)(*g*)

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of argument. I cannot allow that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My question is what led the police to believe that these eminent persons I have named including Dr. Nalini Ranjan Sen Gupta, Captain Narendra Nath Dutta, Mr. Jagadindra Nath Lahiri, Kedernath Khandelwal were about to act in a manner prejudicial to the prosecution of the war?

Mr. SPEAKER: Prejudicial to coming within the mischief of the sections and rules which he has quoted read with section 34(6)(g).

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, that also does not provide this at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can ask as to whether that entitles anybody to deal with any individual.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Section 34(6)(g) says "to cause fear or alarm to public or any section of the public——

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, on a point of order. Is it a question or argument? I have referred the honourable member to certain publications of the Government of India. I do not think, Sir, it is necessary that those publications should be read out in full. It is not necessary also for the purposes of the question. If the honourable member wishes to know what were the reasons which led the police to take action under this section, I am prepared to give an answer.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is exactly what I have asked for. I am quoting it only to refresh your memory.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The reasons were based on information in the possession of the police.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why after the arrest of these persons as stated in column (*ii*) of the statement, persons of the position of Kedarnath Khandelwal——

Mr. SPEAKER: Leave out persons. I do not know them at all.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Dr. Nalini Ranjan Sen Gupta, Dr. Sivapada Bhattacharyya, Captain Narendra Nath Dutta, Mr. Jagadindra Nath Lahiri, and Probodh Chandra Kumar——

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us not create a caste system here.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: When they were arrested, why did not the police proceed against them in Court?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Because the police did not think it necessary to pursue the matter further. The object had been attained by arresting them, and the honourable member knows

and the members of the public know, and all persons interested in the welfare of society know, that the result of these arrests was that prices fell down immediately.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how he can come to the conclusion that it was as a result of the arrest of these persons that prices were controlled?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He has given his opinion. What are the grounds for giving this reply?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The grounds are cause and effect.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no European member of the commercial community in Calcutta was arrested?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In the statement we do not find the name of any single European member.

Mr. SPEAKER: There cannot be any cross-examination.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that some of these gentlemen were arrested because they happened to be Directors of Companies which were considered to be capable of raising prices?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: There was no question of raising prices subsequently.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But the arrest took place just the day following the war was declared.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, my friend is wrong. Most of the arrests took place on the 6th while the war was declared on the 3rd and the prices rose immediately.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state specifically why Dr. Nalini Ranjan Sen Gupta was arrested? What business connection he has and how can he influence the rise in prices?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: If the honourable member wishes to ask me about particular instances, the honourable member must give me notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have given notice, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot give notice about all persons and ask about individuals.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I have demanded the statement of names and I find eminent persons, respectable citizens of the society and some of them as we all know have no connection with business at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, you might know them, but the Hon'ble Minister might not.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any names have been left out in the printed statement? I do not find the name of Sir Badridas Goenka and the name of Sir Hari Sankar Paul in particular

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise I cannot take notice of omissions. It must arise out of the answer as it is

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I want to have the actual position clarified Under the rules I can ask questions on a statement of fact

Mr. SPEAKER: Show me the rules

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Supplementary questions can be asked to elucidate a point on which a reply is given.

Mr. SPEAKER: Here reply has not been given as to whether Sir Hari Sankar Paul was arrested or not.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I find the names of persons who were arrested are given, but I do not find these two names there although they were arrested.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot suppose they were arrested.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is why I ask the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot ask that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Then I ask if this list is complete.

Mr. SPEAKER: Anyway that is my decision. If there is any omission in the list, you cannot ask it in a supplementary question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether apart from these people two other gentlemen mentioned were visited?

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot mention names I can allow as a special case the question as to whether others were arrested.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The question is regarding the persons who were visited. There are two groups of persons. One group was visited and the other group was arrested. In the group which was visited I may mention these two names of respectable citizens.

Mr. SPEAKER: Any member can put a supplementary question for the purpose of further elucidation on a matter of fact regarding which—

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I am asking a question of fact. The question of fact here is the number of persons and the names of persons I have got certain names and I want to get further elucidation on this question of fact whether there were other persons, and if so, what are their names?

Mr. SPEAKER: How do you know that there are other persons? Then you possess the information.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It appears that there were other persons also.

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot mention any names. If you had asked questions as to whether other persons were arrested, I would have allowed that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All right, Sir. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there were other persons who were also visited by the police or placed under arrest on the 5th or 6th of September, 1939?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Not so far as I am aware and not according to the information supplied to me

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire if this is correct?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Yes, if the honourable member so desires.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if one of such arrested persons——

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if these arrested persons demanded in the court where they were required to go that they should be proceeded with in court? My question was whether they were proceeded with in court and the Hon'ble Minister said, No. They were placed before the Magistrate and then the police did not want to proceed.

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already said that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if these gentlemen or some of them were required to be present in a Magistrate's court on any date after their arrest?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I should like to have notice of this question. The honourable member must not expect me to know all about the proceedings that were taken in the Magistrate's court against individual persons—whether they were presented before a Magistrate, before they were discharged and how many were proceeded against, and all that occurred during the proceedings.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*e*), viz., whether the Calcutta Police acted in this connection under the orders of the Provincial Government the responsibility is of the Provincial Government for their arrests, and naturally arising out of that answer I am entitled to ask the question as to what happened after their arrest.

Mr. SPEAKER: But not to cross-examine.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what happened after their arrest?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The prices came down. (Laughter.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that prices came down for reasons entirely unconnected with the arrest?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: If the honourable member wishes to know my personal opinion, I do not think it is so.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is under the Criminal Procedure Code incumbent that persons under arrest must be produced before a Magistrate?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state that if the persons arrested were not proceeded against, was it because the police had no evidence against them?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise You can ask him why the police did not proceed

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I want to have that question also answered, viz., whether the reason was that the police could not produce any evidence. I want to know, "Yes" or "No".

Mr. SPEAKER: But you cannot supply the reason.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: May I submit, Sir, that this is a very vital question as to why these persons were not proceeded against and also the question whether the reason was that the police did not have any evidence against them. I submit, Sir, that this is a legitimate question, and the Hon'ble Minister must be called upon to answer these questions.

Mr. SPEAKER: The first part of his question is all right.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: As regards the general question, we want to know what were the reasons? If any particular reason is put to the Hon'ble Minister for his reply, I submit, Sir, that this is absolutely relevant because it is specifying a particular reason which actuated the Government——

Mr. SPEAKER: It may be relevant but it cannot be put by way of a supplementary question.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: If an honourable member puts a question to the Hon'ble Minister whether this is the reason or one of the reasons which actuated Government, I submit that this is a

legitimate question in this connection. Otherwise there is no other way of finding out why the police after arresting the persons did not proceed against them.

Mr. SPEAKER: You may ask for that information but you cannot supply information.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Very well, Sir, was that one of the reasons?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, because the object for which the police arrested these gentlemen was attained by their arrest and there was no need to proceed with their prosecution.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the object was then something other than that mentioned in answer (*a*)(*iii*) because he says that the object was attained?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a matter of opinion whether something else was attained. He has already given the reason. He has said the object was this.

Mr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What was that object?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: That prices should come down to a reasonable level and that these persons should not profiteer.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker asked the Secretary to call out the next question.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: One more question, Sir. This is a very important question affecting the civil liberties of the people.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think you will have ample opportunities to bring in civil liberties during the budget discussion. (Laughter.)

Inspector of Irrigation Societies in Birbhum and Bankura.

***55. Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of irrigation societies in—

(1) Birbhum, and

(2) Bankura; and

(*ii*) the present number of the Inspectors of Irrigation Societies in each of those two districts?

MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT and RURAL INDEBTEDNESS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick): (*a*)(*i*) (1) 495 and (2) 353.

(*ii*) There is no separate staff of Inspectors of Irrigation Societies.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: If there be no separate staff for inspection of Irrigation Societies, will the Hon'ble Minister please let us know who do the inspection work?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Inspectors on general duty look after the Irrigation Societies as well.

Establishment of more Agricultural Schools in Bengal.

***56. Maulvi MANIRUDDIN AKHAND:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of the Government to establish more schools of the type of Dacca Agricultural School in other Divisions?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the present number of students of the Basanta Kumar Agricultural Institute;

(*ii*) the courses of training imparted to the students by the institute;

(*iii*) the schemes that the school authorities intend to open for the solution of the agricultural problem; and

(*iv*) the courses of training that have been followed up to the present time?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of using the Basanta Kumar Agricultural Institution at Rajshahi for the schemes the Government contemplate for the solution of the problem of agricultural education?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) Yes. I have already a scheme of establishment of a similar school at Chinsura by provincialisation of the existing Bhutnath Pal Agricultural School. I hope to give effect to it early in 1940.

(*b*) The Basanta Kumar Agricultural Institute is under the administrative control of the Education Department who may be referred to.

(c) The question is not understood. The Basanta Kumar Agricultural Institute is already contributing its share towards the solution of the problem of agricultural education in the Province.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (a), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is considering the desirability of including in the list similar schools as the Daulatpur Agricultural Institute?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: No, Sir.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for denying similar approval or facilities to an institution for which Government spent three lakhs of rupees?

Mr. SPEAKER: The latter part of the question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I want to know the reasons for not including that institution for which three lakhs of public money have been spent?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is supplying information.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: That means spending a large sum of money from the Provincial Exchequer. That is the main reason.

Strikes during 1938 in Bengal.

***57. Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (a) With reference to the reply to unstarred question No. 245 of the 15th June, 1939, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state why out of 158 strikes occurring during the calendar year 1938 the Government was asked to intervene in three cases only?

(b) What are the reasons for the very low number of these cases?

(c) Does the Hon'ble Minister propose increasing the number of such cases in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (a) and (b) The honourable member is presumably referring to intervention under section 3 of the Trades Disputes Act. It was not found necessary to intervene in more cases than three. Apart from such cases of intervention, Government intervenes in almost every strike which is based on reasonable grievances and through such intervention many strikes have been satisfactorily settled. There are some cases, however, where Government

has not intervened, nor has Government's intervention been called for as such strikes were not genuine strikes; there were no reasonable grievances, no demands were ever formulated before the strikes or even after the strikes, which could be seriously considered, and these strikes were often carried on in pursuance of a policy of agitation and unrest.

(c) The cases of such numbers will increase if Government's mediation is not accepted by the party and there are matters in dispute which cannot be adjusted without a committee of enquiry or a board of conciliation. Where, as is usually the case, Government's intervention succeeds in settling a dispute, no necessity for action under section 3 of the Trades Disputes Act arises.

(Mr. Sibnath Banerjee rose to put a supplementary question after Mr. Speaker had called "next question".)

Mr. SPEAKER: You are rather late, Mr. Banerjee.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: May be, Sir, but the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy was standing all this while and therefore I could not rise in my place.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, I have called the next question already. You should not have delayed so long.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: I submit, Sir, that the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy was standing in his seat all this time and therefore I thought that he might be going to add to what he had said.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not my concern if he remains standing 5 or 6 minutes and then sits down.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Do you then mean to say, Sir, that we shall be in order in putting a question when any Hon'ble Minister is still on his legs?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Sir, until the Hon'ble Minister resumed his seat the presumption in the mind of Mr. Banerjee was perhaps that Mr. Suhrawardy had something further to say.

Mr. SPEAKER: That, as I have said, is no concern of mine.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Since his release from prison Mr. Banerjee has been rather slow and so he may be given an opportunity to put in his supplementary question. (Laughter.)

Allegations against the Sub-Registrar, Raina, Burdwan.

*58. **Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education (Registration) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the District Registrar, Burdwan, made on the 9th September, 1939, an inquiry into certain allegations against the Sub-Registrar of Raina police-station; and

(*ii*) if so, whether the District Registrar has reported on the matter?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, do the Government contemplate laying a copy of the said report on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) Under orders of the District Registrar, the District Sub-Registrar made an inquiry on or about that date regarding alleged delay in the delivery of certain documents.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

Rules regarding appointment of Principal, Bengal Engineering College, Calcutta.

*59. **Miss MIRA DUTTA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the procedure adopted in the selection and appointment of the Principal, Bengal Engineering College, Sibpore;

(*b*) whether applications were invited for the post both in India and in England;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the candidature of suitable Bengalee scholars could not be considered in the selection;

(*d*) what are the qualifications, age, teaching experience and organising experience of the person selected for the post;

(*e*) what is the text of the advertisement made for the post in England and in India, if any;

(*f*) whether the Provincial Public Services Commission was consulted before the appointment was made; and

(*g*) if so, whether their recommendation was accepted?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) and (*b*) The vacancy was advertised both in the United Kingdom and India. The nominations of the High Commissioner for India, London, from among the applicants in the United Kingdom, were considered by the Bengal Public Service Commission along with the applications received in India. The recommendations of the Public Service Commission were then forwarded to Government for final selection.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*e*) Copies of the advertisements are laid on the table.

(*f*) and (*g*) Yes.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (d) of starred question No. 59, showing qualifications of Dr. Pandya.

Dr. Pandya is 30 years of age. He matriculated in 1925 from the University of Bombay, where he passed the first year examination in Engineering in 1928 and graduated Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) in 1930, standing first in the first class. He was awarded various scholarships, medals and prizes while at that University. From 1930 until 1933 he attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, U.S.A., for post-graduate studies in Civil Engineering, obtained there the M.Sc. degree of Civil Engineering in 1931, was appointed an honorary fellow of the Institute and awarded the Austin Research Fellowship to carry on research in soil mechanics as applied to foundations, and in 1933 obtained the D.Sc. degree in Civil Engineering. In 1934 he joined Messrs. McKenzies, Limited, Bombay, as Engineer for the design and construction especially of concrete bridges, was appointed in 1935 to Messrs. Trussed Steel Company of London for the development of new forms of design and construction in steel and reinforced concrete, and 1937 was transferred to Messrs. Diagrid Structures, Limited, as Chief Engineer in charge of all designs and constructions. He has been responsible there for the design of earthquake proof structures in connection with the reconstruction of Quetta, the design and construction of hangars, factories, etc. He was deputed by his firms to study at the City and Guilds College, London, the behaviour of steel structures (in 1935) and to study conditions in U.S.A., Canada and India to introduce the system of Diagrid construction. In 1938 he was awarded the James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation International Prize of 12,000 dollars for a paper (written in collaboration with his assistant) on "the all-welded grid applied to plane and spatial structures". He has delivered lectures on Engineering subjects in England and contributed articles to technical journals, and holds a patent for a novel method of steel and concrete construction designed to effect great economies in the construction of

large span buildings. He is a member of the Institution of Structural Engineers, the Institution of Engineers (India), Air Raid Protection Institute, London, the Institute of Welding, London, and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Dr. Pandya has a knowledge of Gujarati, Sanskrit, Hindusthani, Marathi, French and German.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (e) of starred question No. 59, showing the text of the advertisement for the post in India.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, BENGAL.

Notice.

Applications are invited for the post of Principal of the Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur, near Calcutta. This college prepares candidates for the Engineering Degree Examinations of the University of Calcutta. The post will be for five years and the salary is Rs. 1,400 per month together with free quarters and a car allowance of Rs. 80 per month. Provident Fund benefits will be allowed. Leave and passages will be according to the normal Government Scheme. Candidates should have high qualifications in Engineering and capacity to administer and control a large College. Candidates (only males) should normally be not less than 35 years of age. In the event of discontinuance of the post owing to action by the Legislative Assembly, six month's pay as compensation will be payable. The candidate appointed will be required to join the post as soon as possible.

Persons holding substantive appointments or acting against substantive vacancies in Government service are not permitted to apply.

Applications in the prescribed form, copies of which may be obtained from the undersigned personally or on sending an addressed envelope with a half-anna stamp, must reach him by the 27th March, 1939.

Every candidate must enclose with his application a fee of Rs. 5 (which will not be refunded) in the form of a receipted chalan from a Government Treasury or the Reserve Bank of India, Calcutta.

Canvassing in any form will be regarded as disqualification.

F. AHMAD,

Secretary,

Public Service Commission, Bengal.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (e) of starred question No. 59, showing the text of the advertisement for the post in England.

PRINCIPAL, BENGAL ENGINEERING COLLEGE, SIBPUR, BENGAL.

The High Commissioner for India is prepared to receive applications for the appointment of Principal of the Bengal Engineering College at Sibpur, near Calcutta, in the service of the Government of Bengal.

2. Application must be made, in duplicate*, on the printed forms attached, which must be returned to the High Commissioner for India, General Department, India House, Aldwych, London, W.C. 2, not later than the 17th April, 1939.

3. Candidates must be natural-born British subjects and the children of British subjects and of good character and sound physique. They should normally be not less than 35 years of age. They must possess high qualifications in engineering, and the capacity to administer and control a large college.

4. The appointment will be made on agreement with the Governor of Bengal for a period of five years, terminable at any time within that period by six months' notice on either side or otherwise subject to the usual conditions. The officer's services may be terminated by the Government of Bengal at any time without notice on grounds of misconduct, inefficiency, neglect of duty or failure to comply with the provisions of the agreement or, if by reason of ill-health he is unfit for the discharge of his duties, on the termination of any leave admissible to him. His salary and the Government contribution to the Provident Fund will be subject to the vote of the Bengal Legislative Assembly. In the event of discontinuance of the post owing to action by the Legislative Assembly, six months' pay as compensation will be payable.

5. The pay of the appointment will be at the rate of Rs. 1,400 a calendar month (sterling equivalent approximately £1,260 per annum).

Note 1.—The sterling equivalent shown above indicates the approximate pay per annum at the current rate of exchange of about 1*s.* 6*d.* No guarantee can be given that the rate of exchange will not fluctuate.

Note 2.—In the event of the officer being sent on deputation out of India, he will be entitled only to such pay as may be prescribed by the rules for the time being in force.

Note 3.—Pay will commence from the date of disembarkation in India provided the officer reports himself for duty without avoidable delay.

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*Any testimonials or other documents submitted by a candidate with his application should also be in duplicate.

Note 4.—Indian income-tax is leviable on the pay of appointee. The rates of tax will be furnished, on request, by the High Commissioner for India.

6. The appointment is non-pensionable, but the officer will be required to subscribe to the Bengal Contributory Provident Fund and will be bound by the rules of the Fund. Subscription is compulsory at a minimum rate of 6¼ per cent. of pay, but the officer may subscribe up to 15 per cent. of pay, having the option to fix his rate of contribution at any point within these limits, to which Government adds yearly a contribution of such percentage of the subscriber's emoluments drawn on duty during the year, or the period as the case may be, as has been or may be prescribed by Government by general or special order. (Under present conditions Government contribution will be 6¼ per cent. of the officer's emoluments.) Compound interest is credited yearly to the officer's account, and the sum so accumulated will be paid to the officer on his quitting the service or to his legal representatives in the event of his death while in the service, provided that the whole or any part of the Government contribution and interest and increment accrued thereon may be withheld to meet a liability incurred to the Government or in case he is dismissed from the service or in case he resigns the service within a period of five years.

The current rate of interest is 3½ per cent., but the rate is liable to amendment from time to time.

7. The appointment, which is in a Vacation Department, will, if the candidate selected is of non-Asiatic domicile, carry the following leave terms:—

(*i*) Leave will only be granted in case of urgent necessity and, if granted, will be on half average pay up to one-eleventh of the period spent on duty, to which may be added, on medical certificate, leave on average or half average pay up to a maximum of three months reckoned in terms of leave on average pay provided that leave on leave salary equivalent to average pay may be granted to the extent of one month for each such year of duty in which the selected candidate has not availed himself of any part of the vacation of the Bengal Engineering College. If, however, a part only of the vacation has been taken in any year, the period of leave on average pay will be reduced by a fraction of a month equal to the proportion which the part of the vacation taken bears to the full period of the vacation.

(*ii*) Extraordinary leave without pay in special circumstances when no other leave is admissible, subject to a total maximum limit of three months in respect of such leave.

(*iii*) If the Principal's services are terminated on grounds of ill health he will be entitled to pay at the appropriate rate for any period of leave then due to him.

(*iv*) On the termination of his services at the expiration of the period of the agreement, the Principal will be entitled to pay at the appropriate rate for any period of leave that may then remain due to him, provided that such leave has been applied for by him during his service but has been refused owing to the exigencies of the public service.

For an appointee of Asiatic domicile the provisions of the Bengal Services (Revision of Leave Rules), 1934, will apply. Copy of these Rules may be seen at the office of the High Commissioner for India.

8. The officer appointed will be provided with a passage by sea from London to Calcutta. In the event of his resigning the appointment within the period of the agreement without giving the prescribed notice or in the event of his resigning the appointment within two years whether with or without giving the prescribed notice, except on grounds of ill-health, certified to the satisfaction of Government, he will be required to refund forthwith on demand the cost of the passage provided hereunder.

On the termination of the officer's services on the expiry of the term of five years or if his services are dispensed with by Government at any time within that period for any reason other than misconduct on his part or breach by him of any of the conditions of his contract, he will, if he is of non-Asiatic domicile, be granted a passage by sea from Calcutta to London (or at his option to any other country at a cost not exceeding that of a passage by sea from Calcutta to London).

The grant of a free passage on the termination of the agreement will be conditional on the officer's leaving India within three months and as the Government may direct.

Note.—The passages referred to above will be limited in cost to that of a cabin-class passage by British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer between London and Calcutta.

9. The officer will be entitled during his tenure of the office of Principal of the Bengal Engineering College, to a motor car allowance of Rs. 80 a month or such other allowance as may be prescribed by the Government from time to time, provided that he actually maintains a motor car.

10. The officer will be eligible for travelling allowance at first-class rates if required in the interests of the public service to travel on duty.

11. The Principal will be entitled to unfurnished quarters within the premises of the Bengal Engineering College free of rent, but he will be required to pay charges for electric energy consumed and the occupiers' share of the municipal taxes on the quarters.

12. The appointee will be of gazetted rank and shall be deemed to belong to the Bengal General Service.

13. The appointee will be required within a period of two years of reporting for duty to pass such examination in Bengali as may be prescribed by the Government. Failure to pass the examination may render an officer liable to dismissal.

14. Candidates must be prepared, if called upon, to attend at their own expense at the Office of the High Commissioner for India for a personal interview. The qualifications of the candidate or candidates selected for further consideration will be communicated to the Government of Bengal, by whom the final selection of a candidate for this appointment will be undertaken. In the event of the candidate selected being in the United Kingdom he will be required to produce satisfactory evidence of the date of his birth and to appear before the Medical Board at the India Office for examination as to his physical fitness for appointment. There is no charge for this examination.

15. The selected candidate will be required to proceed to join the appointment as soon as possible after notification of his selection.

16. In connection with any matter in respect of which no provision is herein made, the rules in the Civil Services (Classification, Control, and Appeal) Rules, or rules made thereunder, shall apply.

17. The terms and condition provided in this memorandum are liable to modification at the discretion of the Government.

18. Persons holding substantive appointments or acting against substantive vacancies in Government service in Bengal are not permitted to apply.

Note.

Some particulars regarding the Bengal Engineering College are appended:—

The College teaches up to the B.E. degree of the Calcutta University. There are courses in (*a*) Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, (*b*) Civil Engineering. Students are trained in the Mechanical and Electrical classes for the Diploma of the Board of Control for Apprenticeship Training and for the Associateship of the College in Mechanical Engineering.

Civil Engineering Classes—Average total about 80.

Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Classes—Average total 120.

The College is a Government institution and is affiliated to the Calcutta University up to the B.E. degree. It has a Governing Body appointed by Government.

(2) Civil Engineering classes comprise some 20 to 24 students. The age of students who are Anglo-Indian and Indian students of middle class, is between 16 and 25 years.

(3) The College is a residential institution situated on the river Hooghly, on the opposite bank to Calcutta and next to the Royal Botanical Garden. It is three miles from Howrah and is easily accessible from Calcutta. The hours of work at the college are from 7 to 11 a.m. and 12-30 to 4 p.m. daily. The College has two vacations, viz., the summer vacation for about 45 days from the latter part of April, and the Puja vacation for about 34 days commencing from the latter part of September or early October. During November, December and January the College survey camps are held and students of various classes with their professors attend for short periods from three to six weeks.

Note.—The information furnished above, which has been extracted from the latest information available at the office of the High Commissioner for India, may be out of date in some respects. Candidates who are invited to appear before the Selection Committee, will, however, be afforded an opportunity to make such enquiries as they may wish.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answers (*a*) and (*b*) and the statements attached thereto, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why Dr. Pandya who is 30 years of age and does not comply with the advertised minimum age of 35 years was selected? In both the advertisements in India as well as in Great Britain it appears that the minimum age limit was 35.

Mr. SPEAKER: Perhaps Dr Pandya was selected by the Public Service Commission. If so, you can ask the Hon'ble Minister whether the selection depended on that body and then ask your question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My point was whether the fixation of the age was dependent on the Government, because I have no jurisdiction to ask any question of the Public Service Commission.

Mr. SPEAKER: My point is that Government ask for an officer, and then an advertisement is issued in India by the Public Service Commission, and as regards the terms of that advertisement they are determined by the Public Service Commission.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, Sir, the Public Service Commission determines the terms in consultation with the department concerned.

Mr. SPEAKER: But is not the Public Service Commission the final appointing authority?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am afraid, not; and if that is admitted we shall be very happy, but so far as I know it is the Government that is the final authority.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then you can ask whether this is the term that is, whether that was the age that was recommended by Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Thank you, Sir. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the term about the age not being less than 35 years was one of the terms recommended by Government to the Public Service Commission?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: What Government recommended was that an attempt should be made to secure the services of some one not below 35, I mean, normally not below 35.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Is this then one of the abnormal acts of the Bengal Government? Why this abnormality in this case?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons why a gentleman of 30 years, 5 years less than the minimum advertised age, was accepted by Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Because, Sir, this gentleman, Dr. Pandya, was otherwise so eminently suitable that it was considered advisable in the public interest to appoint him.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: When the Government decided to forego the clause about the minimum age, did Government consider the desirability of advertising again with a view to find out if other persons between the ages of 30 and 35 would be available who might be better qualified?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise,—for this reason that there was perhaps no bar to anybody below 35 years of age to apply.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, Sir; there was a bar.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: As a matter of fact several candidates applied who were below 35.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the condition that persons holding substantive posts under Government should not be permitted to apply was one of the conditions laid down by the Government, or was it laid down by the Public Service Commission apart from the Government's recommendations?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Laid down by Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: They are possibly the usual rules, Dr. Sanyal, and I can say without entering into a discussion of this matter that there are rules on the subject.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Government always has an opportunity of inviting application from their own men also.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, that is not so unless it is a promotion case. In case of direct recruitment the present rule is ordinarily not to allow Government officers holding substantive appointments to apply. But if it is a promotion case it is otherwise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The Public Service Commission examines both direct and promotion cases. Will the Hon'ble Minister please state why the existing Government servants, namely, the Professors of the Engineering College, who might have put in long periods of successful service were thus debarred from applying for this post?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That was the decision which had been arrived at after a careful consideration of the question from all points of view, and it would be difficult for me to give this House an idea of the grounds for the decision, but I may tell the honourable member that the question has been discussed very thoroughly and considered and it is as a matter of fact very strictly adhered to, but if the circumstances are exceptional that would be a different matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the Chief Minister has misunderstood the question. The question is, you have advertised the post for direct appointment, but why did you not allow officers of the department to apply for the post?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: "The why" is very difficult to answer, but this was the decision taken after careful consideration that we should not ordinarily allow such men to apply.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have nothing to say against Dr. Pandya. Here are two advertisements, one issued in India and the other in Great Britain, and the gentleman applying in Great Britain who was probably eminently qualified has been taken in. I am only seeking information from the Hon'ble Minister——

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, the information is in the rules because I know certain things about these rules. Your question should be whether in cases of direct recruitment officers of the department are allowed to apply. You may ask that question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Does the Government consider the desirability——

Mr. SPEAKER: No, no, not that way; but whether the officers of the department are allowed to apply, as I have already pointed out.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if in cases of direct recruitment officers of Government are in any case allowed to put in application?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Well, Sir, if this question is put, I would ask the honourable member to let me have some time and notice, because this question has been discussed so often and from so many various points. The only reason that I can give is that that was the decision arrived at after careful consideration, and if any further information is asked for I would ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Then about answer (*c*)——

Mr. SPEAKER: I can tell you that the information is in the books.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I submit, Sir, that the rules are that if anybody wants to apply he has to do so through the head of the department, but he is not completely debarred.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not want to give that information, for it would not be proper. But I may tell you that I was there when these rules were framed.

Effect of control of prices by Government on the supply of quinine.

*60. **Babu SYAMA PROSAD BARMAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that due to the control of prices by the Government medical practitioners and private firms are not getting quinine sufficient for their requirements?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government are proposing to take to meet the situation?

(*c*) Is it a fact that Messrs. Wallace and Company and Messrs. Chowdhury and Company, agents for selling Government cinchona products, are selling Government quinine at a higher rate than the rate fixed by the Government?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, does he propose to take in the matter?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of arranging the sale of quinine to the general public and to the private firms from the Presidency Jail?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) There is no shortage of supply in respect of Government quinine. There has been a certain temporary shortage in respect of foreign quinine, not on account of price control, but due to war conditions and delay in shipments. The two chief importers of foreign quinine report that they have run short of stock, but it is expected that there will be large shipments by the end of this month which will enable them to resume their old supply.

(*b*) and (*d*) Do not arise.

(*c*) Government have no such information.

(*e*) No such proposal is under consideration.

Religious education for Muslim students in schools and colleges.

*61. **Mrs. HASINA MURSHED:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware that there is a demand for the employment of religious teachers for imparting instruction in Quoran and other religious matters to, and for securing the observance of religious rites by, the Muslim students of both sexes in the Government schools and colleges in Calcutta and elsewhere?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps he proposes to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) I have asked the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, to mature a scheme.

Posts of confidential clerks for Intelligence and District Intelligence Branches.

***62. Khan Bahadur MD. ANWARUL AZIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to state whether those 13 permanent and 6 temporary posts of confidential clerks for Intelligence Branch and District Intelligence Branch which have recently been sanctioned by Government to replace C.C. Sub-Inspectors of districts in the scale of Rs. 90—225 have been filled up?

(*b*) Has any Muslim been taken in any of these vacancies?

(*c*) What is the criterion by which the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Intelligence Branch, intends to make the selections for these posts?

(*d*) Do the Government contemplate the appointment of qualified and suitable Muslims in proportionate number?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) None of the posts have yet been filled.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Fitness.

(*d*) Muslims will be appointed according to the Communal Ratio decision.

Introduction by Government of Free Primary Education and University Regulation Bills.

***63. Maulvi MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(*i*) that there exists a feeling amongst the Muslims and the Scheduled Caste people over the question of Government's failure in introducing Bills in the Bengal Legislative Assembly regarding—

(1) the free and compulsory primary education, secondary education, and

(2) the Calcutta University Regulation; and

(*ii*) that the educationally-backward communities are in need of such legislations?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (i) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps he proposes to take for introduction of the Bills?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government have under consideration the report of the Primary Education Committee. As soon as decisions have been made concerning the recommendations of this Committee such action as is possible with the financial resources available will be taken to ensure rapid progress.

Government have at present no power satisfactorily to legislate concerning secondary education but if the amendments to the Government of India Act at present before Parliament are carried such power will vest in the Provincial Legislature from the 1st April, 1940. Government are preparing a Secondary Education Bill accordingly.

University education.—The Provincial Legislature has at present no power to legislate concerning the Calcutta University but will have from the 1st April, 1940, if the amendments of the Government of India Act at present before Parliament are accepted. Government propose to introduce a Bill as soon as the Provincial Legislature has power to enact it.

Scheduled Caste hostel in Mymensingh.

***64. Mr. MONOMOHAN DAS:** (*a*) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 164 of the 10th March, 1939, regarding the non-existence of Scheduled Caste hostel in Mymensingh, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state when the construction of the hostel will be taken up?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the necessity of a hostel is keenly felt by the Scheduled Caste students?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) The question is still under consideration.

(*b*) Yes.

Mr. MONOMOHAN DAS: In the previous session also the answer was the same as it is given now. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long this question will remain under consideration?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The question has been considered and a final decision will soon be taken. I may inform the honourable member that the delay has occurred in consequence of some defects in the plans and estimates and by reason of that fact

these plans and estimates have been returned by the Public Health Department for further scrutiny. Now the question is hearing completion and I should be able to take action within a very short time.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that the fund from which the expenditure to be incurred on account of the hostel or the cost of the hostel was to be met, was totally exhausted?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question hardly arises here.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Without further grant the cost of the hostel cannot be met.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দয়া কোরে বোলবেন কি Scheduled Castesদের জন্য এই hostel construct করা হবে কি হবে না? আর যদি করা হয় সেটা এই যে ৫ লক্ষ টাকার যে ফাণ্ড কোরেছেন সেইটা থেকে হবে বা জেনারেল এডুকেশন ফাণ্ডের থেকে হোয়েছে?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Rs. 5 lakhs belong to public revenues.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Destruction of crops by water-hyacinth in Gokarna Union, Tippera.

47. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: (*a*) With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 251 on the 22nd March, 1939, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the petitions submitted by the residents of the Gokarna Union within police-station Nasirnagar, district Tippera, in a registered cover, alleging that the crops of a large tract of the unions are being destroyed for the last 25 years by water-hyacinth, were received by the—

(1) Collector on the 5th January, 1938;

(2) the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture on the 6th February, 1939; and

(3) the Hon'ble Chief Minister on the 6th February, 1939?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, does the Hon'ble Minister contemplate an inquiry into the matter?

(c) Is it a fact—

(i) that the residents have submitted a plan with an estimated cost for the construction of a fencing to stop the destruction of crops by water-hyacinth to the Subdivisional Officer, Brahmanbaria, Tippera; and

(ii) that the people of the Konda Union within the same police-station suffer from the same grievances for the last 24 years?

(d) What steps, if any, do the Government propose to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (a) No such petitions were received by me or the Hon'ble Chief Minister and there are no papers to show that they were received by my predecessor. I have no information as to whether the Collector received any such petition.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes.

(d) Suitable action is being taken by the Subdivisional Officer in collaboration with the Manager, Sarail Estate, within the jurisdiction of which the area falls. An attempt is being made to have a comprehensive survey of the area made by the Irrigation Department for the purpose of preparation of an effective scheme. Government granted Rs. 250 towards the construction of a barrier at Gokarna which was supplemented by an amount of Rs. 500 raised by the local people.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: In answer (a), it is said "No such petitions were received by me or the Hon'ble Chief Minister and there are no papers to show that they were received by my predecessor". Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten me on this point? I have in my hand the acknowledgments of petitions sent by registered post to the Hon'ble Ministers? As a matter of fact, petitions were received by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture and by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. I can hand over the receipts to him if he wants them.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I accept that information as correct, but there is no record in the office to show that petitions have been received.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make enquiries into the matter and take such action as may be necessary in respect of the allegations made in the petition? I can hand over the petition to him.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: That is a request for action.

Mr. SPEAKER: You may supply the information to him.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Yes, Sir. Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in the last 25 years crops have been destroyed by water-hyacinth in that locality?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I am not aware of that fact, but the honourable member will see from the answer that suitable action is being taken.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of making a survey?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I do not know whether that will be possible, but I have no objection to consider the desirability of that.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that not one petition was submitted but a large number of petitions were submitted regarding the extent of damage that was being done during the last twenty-five years?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I am not aware of the large number of petitions but from what my friend says I can take it that representations have been made.

Dowry in marriages.

48. Maulvi MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department aware—

(*i*) that there exists a system of taking dowry by the parties to a marriage in Bengal; and

(*ii*) that this system is causing hardship and inconvenience to the people of this Province?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government contemplate putting a stop to this practice in Bengal by legislation or otherwise?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL and LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A private member's Bill on the subject is being circulated for public opinion.

Appointments under Jute Restriction Scheme in Malda.

49. Mr. IDRIS AHMED MIA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, grade by grade—

(*i*) the names of the temporary clerks and primary recorders;

(*ii*) their educational qualifications; and

(*iii*) home addresses

appointed in the district of Malda in the Jute Restriction Scheme?

(*b*) Is it a fact that candidates have been appointed from outside Malda?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why preference was given to candidates other than those of the Malda district?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that qualified candidates were available at Malda; and

(*ii*) that some matriculates and higher madrassah passed candidates of Malda were not taken in?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) A statement regarding temporary clerks is laid on the table. The compilation of a similar statement for primary recorders will involve an amount of labour and time which the jute registration staff cannot undertake without serious detriment to their normal work.

(*b*) Yes, in a few cases.

(*c*) No preference was given to candidates of other districts. The appointments were made at recruiting centres within the district and while generally local men were appointed, some suitable other district men present at the centres were also appointed.

(*d*) I have no particular information except that the best qualified men present at the recruiting centres were appointed.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 49.

	Name.	Educational qualification.	Home district.
1.	Mohammad Abdur Rais	Matriculate	Malda.
2.	Abu Ahmed Arshed Ali	Do.	Do.
3.	Serajuddin Ahmed	Do.	Dinajpur.
4.	A. H. Md. Siddique Tayiab	Do.	Malda.
5.	*Baba Niranjan Bagchi	Do.	Do.

*Worked up to the 17th November, 1939. The post since lying vacant for want of a Scheduled Caste candidate.

Constitution of District School Board in Bakarganj.

50. Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) when will the District School Board in the district of Bakarganj be constituted;

(*ii*) when is it likely to function;

(*iii*) when is the levy of the education cess likely to be made;

(*iv*) when will the augmentation grants be available; and

(*v*) the number of schools proposed to be started?

(*b*) Do the Government propose to start more than the prescribed number of schools in the Bakarganj district, which has numerous *khals* and *bils*?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*)(*i*) and (*ii*) The notification constituting the Board has issued and it will function with effect from the 1st April, 1940.

(*iii*) Cess will be levied from the 14th April, 1940, corresponding to the 1st Baisak 1347, B.S.

(*iv*) During 1940-41.

(*v*) and (*b*) The number of schools to be started will be settled by the Board after taking a survey of the district. The existence of numerous *khals* and *bils* will be taken into consideration in this connection. Apart from this consideration the number may be expected to be some 1,500 schools on the basis of one school per population of 2,000.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that owing to local conditions, namely, the existence of numerous *khals* and *bils* in the district which it is difficult for boys to cross, there is absolute necessity for the number of schools exceeding the number according to the basis given in the answer?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: There is the possibility.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: With reference to answer (*iv*) regarding the augmentation grant, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the augmentation grant will be sufficient to meet the expenditure so as to make the scheme workable?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a general question.

Improvement of the canal Maranadi in Nadia.

51. Mr. J. N. GUPTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether the District Magistrate of Nadia received a petition in May, 1936, praying for the following:—

(*i*) to improve the condition of canal Maranadi; and

(*ii*) to improve roads and sanitation of the villages situated on the sides of canal Maranadi?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken on the said petition?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) I am informed that no such petition appears to have been received by the District Magistrate.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Appointments made by District Judges.

52. Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, district by district, and up to date since 1st April, 1938, the number of clerks (senior and junior) appointed—

(*i*) by the District Judges; and

(*ii*) in the offices of the Presidency Small Causes Court?

(*b*) How many of them are—

(*i*) Muslims;

(*ii*) Caste Hindus; and

(*iii*) Scheduled Castes?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the cases in which District Judges have promoted clerks of the junior grade to the senior grade?

(*d*) How many of the promoted clerks referred to in (*c*) are—

(*i*) Muslims;

(*ii*) Scheduled Castes; and

(*iii*) others?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: A statement is laid on the Library table.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS : মন্ত্রী মহাশয় যে তালিকা দাখিল কোরেছেন তা থেকে দেখা যায় যে গত তিন বৎসরের ভিতর যে appointment হোয়েছে তার ভিতর ১৬টি districtএ scheduled castesএর কোন লোক appointed হয় নি আর ৪টি districtএ আর সব district গুলিতে একজন কোরে লোক নেওয়া হোয়েছে। মন্ত্রী মহাশয় এ সম্বন্ধে তদন্ত কোরে বিহিত ব্যবস্থা কোরবেন কি ?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I will look into the matter.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS : মন্ত্রী মহাশয় এ-সম্বন্ধে প্রতিকারের কোন ব্যবস্থা কোরেছেন কি ?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I am trying my best.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS : মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বোলবেন কি এ-সম্বন্ধে কি কি চেষ্টা করা হোয়েছে ?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Circular after circular has been issued.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS : Circular এর পর circular দিয়েও যখন কিছু হয়নি তখন এ-সম্বন্ধে কিছু effective করবার ইচ্ছা আছে কি গভর্ণমেণ্টের ?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I want your suggestion.

Appointment of one Babu Tarapada Mukherjee, an ex-detenu, in Jute Registration Department.

53. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department aware—

(*i*) that one Sj. Tarapada Mukherjee was appointed as an Assistant Inspector in the Jute Registration Department; and

(*ii*) that his name appeared in a list of the appointed candidates?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) where has he been posted; and

(*ii*) which district does he belong to?

(c) Is it a fact that one Sj. Tarapada Mukherjee, an ex-detenu, was granted an interview by the appointing authority in connection with the same appointment?

(d) If the answers to (a) and (c) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which of the two Mukherjees has got the appointment?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (a) Yes.

(b) Jessore.

(c) The papers do not show that two persons of the name of Tarapada Mukherjee were interviewed or that one ex-detenu of the same name was interviewed.

(d) Does not arise. The person appointed is not an ex-detenu.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us the materials in the records which have enabled him to infer that there is nothing in the papers to show that two persons of the name of Tarapada Mukherjee were interviewed or that one ex-detenu of the same name was interviewed?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: It arises in this way, Sir. I am putting that question with reference to answer (c) which says "The papers do not show that two persons of the name of Tarapada Mukherjee were interviewed or that one ex-detenu of the same name was interviewed."

Mr. SPEAKER: From that your question does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I want to know——

Mr. SPEAKER: You have not asked any question to know what the papers are.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I am asking what are the papers which are meant in his answer?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a complete answer.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I don't think that any such remark as is contained in the answer will be found on a paper. So I am asking him what are the materials in the record to show that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, I cannot understand your question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: The answer is "The papers do not show that two persons of the name of Tarapada Mukherjee were interviewed or that one ex-detenu of the same was interviewed".

Mr. SPEAKER: In other words it may be that in the application he did not mention that he was an ex-detenu.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: The fact is that this ex-detenu was given an interview but he was not appointed. So will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how he says from the papers that the ex-detenu was not granted an interview?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is in the answer. I cannot help it.

Complaints against policemen in Dacca and certain other districts.

54. Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA CANGULI: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of complaints, cases or enquiries, with their results, made in the current calendar year against the police constables and the police officers in the districts of Dacca, Faridpur, Bakarganj, Chittagong, Tippera and Noakhali;

(*b*) the names of the persons concerned; and

(*c*) the charges made against each of them?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Statements are placed on the Library Table.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: With reference to the statement laid on the library table, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why in several cases in which police officers were accused of torture, wrongful confinement and extortion and similar offences they were not put on trial—only the enquiring officers reported and the cases were dropped?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Unless the honourable member gives specific instances it is difficult to answer. The statement is very comprehensive and complete and I will refer the honourable member to it.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: I would refer to the case of Sub-Inspector Saiduddin and a constable in the district of Faridpur. The complaints against them were for torture and wrongful confinement. The case was declared by the enquiring officer but no action was taken under section 200, Indian Penal Code.

Mr. SPEAKER: This question is not for that. It is purely a statistical question and you cannot ask what action Government took on that.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: I am asking a question according to the answer that has been given in the statement laid on the Library Table. I find that this Saiduddin and the constable were not proceeded against in the Court of Law.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not the subject-matter of the answer.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: The intention of the question is to know what action was taken. Suppose, a constable is charged with murder and no action is taken against him, am I not entitled to ask why no action was taken against him?

Mr. SPEAKER: Not in this question.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why one officiating Sub-Inspector Meshbauddin Ahmed being found guilty of having visited an unmarried girl —

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. That question does not arise.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government consider the desirability of enhancing the punishment inflicted on Meshbauddin Ahmed.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry there is no indication whatsoever about it in this question.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: The questioner wanted to know whether sufficient action was taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, you cannot put that question here.

Appointment of a Scheduled Caste teacher in Dacca Normal School.

55. Mr. TARINI CHARAN PRAMANIK: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the present number of Government institutions including Guru Training and Normal Schools at Dacca; and

(*ii*) the total number of teachers and clerks in each of them?

(*b*) How many of them are from—

(*i*) Caste Hindus;

(*ii*) Muslims; and

(*iii*) Scheduled Castes?

(*c*) Is it a fact that a Scheduled Caste teacher who use[illegible] Normal School at Dacca has been appointed recently as Sub-Inspector of Schools?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the vacancy in the Normal School has since been filled up?

(*e*) If so, who has been appointed to the post?

(*f*) Was the post advertised? If not, what are the reasons?

(*g*) Is there any other Scheduled Caste teacher in the said Normal School?

(*h*) Did the Scheduled Caste representative approach the Superintendent of the Normal School and the Dacca Range Inspector of Schools in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*c*) Yes, in June, 1939, Babu Kaliprosad Roy, Head Pandit, Dacca Normal School, was promoted to the Inspectorate, as Sub-Inspector of Schools, Swarupkati (Bakarganj).

(*d*) Yes temporarily, pending further arrangement after advertisement.

(*e*) Babu Dwijendralal Nath, M.A. (1st class first in Bengali).

(*f*) Steps are being taken to advertise the post. As the incumbent of the post must be a B.T. and is required to possess adequate qualifications in Bengali, History and Physical Education, it is doubtful whether a Scheduled Caste candidate with those qualifications will be available. It is, therefore, proposed to advertise the post on general terms and to give preference to a Scheduled Caste candidate if a properly qualified candidate is available.

(*g*) No.

(*h*) No Scheduled Caste representative approached the Superintendent, Dacca Normal School. It is not known whether any Scheduled Caste representative approached the then Inspector of Schools in charge of the Dacca Range in this matter.

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (a) and (b) of unstarred question No. 55, regarding the staff of Government Educational Institutions at Dacca.

Name of institution.	Number of teachers and clerks.			Distribution caste by caste.			
	Teachers.	Clerks.	Total	Caste Hindus.	Muslims.	Scheduled Castes.	Others.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
(1) Ahsanullah School of Engineering	20	9	29	21	8	Nil	..
(2) Dacca Intermediate College	24	3	27	13	14	Nil	..
(3) Teachers' Training College.	8	2	10	7	3	Nil	..
(4) Dacca Islamic Intermediate College (including the attached Junior Madrassah).	24	3	27	Nil	27	Nil	..
(5) Eden High School for Girls.	16	2	18	14	1	Nil	3
(6) Armenitola Government High School	13	1	14	8	5	Nil	1*
(7) Dacca Collegiate School.	30	1	31	21	9	1	..
(8) Dacca Government Muslim High School.	16	1	17	Nil	17	Nil	..
(9) Dacca Normal School.	6	1	7	5	2	Nil	..
(10) Dacca Guru Training School.	3	Nil	3	2	1	Nil	..

*Christian.

Mr. ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: With reference to (*f*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that there are several B.T. men from the Scheduled Castes well qualified for the post?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Their cases will be considered.

Rescue of two persons by Master Abdur Rahman of SS. "Mallard" in the river Sanka.

56. Dr. SANAULLAH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state whether the lives of one Asabuddin, son of Musaraf Ali, and of one Mafizor Rahman, son of Ahmed, both of village Chambal, police-station Banskhali, district Chittagong, were saved together with their large sunk sampan by Master Abdur Rahman of SS. "Mallard" of Messrs. Bengal Burma Steam Navigation Company, Limited, at 11 a.m. on the 22nd October, 1938, at the Bay of Bengal near the mouth of the river Sanka within the territorial jurisdiction of Chittagong?

(*b*) Did the said Master Abdur Rahman do the similar kind of rescue works on other occasions as well?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, did the Government take any step to encourage this kind of daring rescue works?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, what steps, if any, do the Government propose to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) This appears to be correct.

(*b*) Government have no information, but on enquiry it has been reported to them that Master Abdur Rahman performed rescue work on five other occasions. Government regret that they have no materials to verify this statement.

(*c*) and (*d*) I regret that Government have not been able to take any action as they received no official information on the subject.

Progress made in the scheme of Rural Reconstruction.

57. Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state what progress has been made in the scheme of Rural Reconstruction as outlined in the speech of the then Hon'ble Minister in charge of Rural Reconstruction on the floor of the House during the last session?

(*b*) How the money provided in the budget under different heads has hitherto been spent or is proposed to be spent during the current year?

(*c*) Do the Government contemplate the appointment of Special Officers in each district?

(*d*) If so, when are the appointments likely to be made?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) I regret the scheme outlined in the speech of my predecessor during the last budget session has not yet taken a final shape. There was considerable difference of opinion with regard to the details of the scheme which it has not yet been possible to settle. The scheme was discussed at the last Commissioners' Conference and no final decision on the various opinions expressed thereat has yet been possible. I have now been examining the scheme in right earnest and hope to arrive at a final decision in regard to its details so as to give effect to it early in the coming financial year. As the scheme is of a novel character I need hardly emphasise the necessity of a very cautious and thorough examination of the scheme before it is launched. Meanwhile the District and Subdivisional Officers have been carrying on their rural reconstruction work in collaboration with local bodies and the various rural uplift associations started in villages, unions, subdivisions and districts according to the detailed instructions issued to them. An all-Bengal drive for the eradication of water-hyacinth in rural areas was organised in the shape of a Water-hyacinth Week observed in April last which aroused great enthusiasm and yielded good practical results which however have not been very lasting for want of continued efforts to keep the areas cleared free from fresh growth or onrush of water-hyacinth. I am considering the question of organising another all-Bengal drive some time this year. As an essential preliminary to the scheme under consideration, a training camp has been started for the theoretical and practical training of Circle Officers who have a very important part to play in rural reconstruction work. The Director of Rural Reconstruction has been co-ordinating the work that is going on in the districts. He has also been responsible for the organisation and supervision of the water-hyacinth drive and has also organised and is supervising the Circle Officers' Training Camp.

(*b*) The only expenditure so far incurred has been on account of the pay and travelling allowance of the Director of Rural Reconstruction and his office staff, the Water-hyacinth Week and the Circle Officers' Training Camp There will be a large saving this year but the entire amount is proposed to be re-allotted next year so as to enable the implementing of the scheme under consideration.

(*c*) and (*d*) These form part of the scheme which is still under consideration.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: With reference to (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to refer to the original speech of his predecessor last year in which he said that the grants for Rural Reconstruction Department have been interspersed under various budget heads—the main head "General Administration" consisting of Rs. 57,000 under "Civil Secretariat", Rs. 1,54,000 under the head

"District Administration", Rs. 2,00,000 as discretionary grant to District Officers, Rs. 15,000 for Training Institutes, Rs. 16,000 under "Department of Industries", Rs. 13,000 for Adult Education, Rs. 42,000 under head "Agriculture", Rs. 5,000 each under the heads "Public Health" and "Irrigation" and Rs. 4,000 under head "Civil Works", and say whether he is aware that none of these sums has been spent?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: These sums were provided under various other heads with which the Rural Reconstruction Department is not concerned. So if my friend wants information on these heads he must ask for such information from the departments directly concerned.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Sir, I am referring to the speech of the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy a copy of which is with me.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister is not responsible for that speech

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: I am quoting from the speech of the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy who was then in charge of the Rural Reconstruction Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: Since then the portfolio might have been changed

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: But the thing remains

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: For this information you may ask another department and not me.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: I am referring to the speech of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Rural Reconstruction and there it has been said that "the honourable members will find that the grants for the Rural Reconstruction Department have been interspersed under various budget heads".

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry it is not in the answer.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: But the answer says that no sums were spent.

Mr. SPEAKER: Quite right, you may ask why it was not spent.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any of these sums were at all spent?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The answer is this that the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy while making his speech last year referred to provisions in the budget for rural reconstruction work in other departments also. These were provisions actually for rural reconstruction work, although they do not come under our Rural Reconstruction Department. Therefore whatever expenditure has been made under those heads has been made by the departments concerned and not by the Rural Reconstruction Department. So if my friend wants information on those things, he must ask the Minister of the department concerned.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the sum of Rs 13,000 under the head "Adult Education" was spent or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: When the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy made that speech "Adult Education" was not included in this department

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Sir, may I know whether "Adult Education" is now within the Rural Reconstruction Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Yes

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the sum of Rs 13,000 which was allotted in the Budget has been spent or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Probably it has not been spent.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for introducing a scheme on the floor of the House and inspiring in the minds of the people hopes without the scheme being actually examined and approved by Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The scheme is still under examination.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: But my question was this. In the speech we were given to understand that the scheme for rural reconstruction has been adopted by Government. My question is whether that scheme as adumbrated in that speech of the Hon'ble Minister in charge was a scheme of the Government or a scheme of his own individually?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy never said that that scheme had already been adopted. He adumbrated that scheme which is still under examination.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the best procedure for you, Mr. Wahab Khan, is to discuss this in your Budget speech.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it was ever mentioned in the speech that it was not yet accepted by Government?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it is also a matter which you can discuss in the Budget speech.

Ban on public meetings by Government of Bengal.

58. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the Province of Bengal all public meetings have been banned by the order of the Government of Bengal?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when they were banned, and why?

(*c*) If they were banned, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in how many cases, since such ban in the district of Tippera, the permission for holding meetings has been refused by the District Magistrate?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing in respect of refusals of permission for holding meetings in the district of Tippera—

(*i*) for what purposes the meetings were proposed to be held;

(*ii*) when they were proposed to be held; and

(*iii*) the reason for refusing the permission?

(*e*) Is it a fact that on the occasion of the observance of the Hindu Nation Day organised by the Hindu Mahasabha, meetings and processions proposed to be held were not allowed to be held?

(*f*) If the answer to clause (*e*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for refusing the permission sought for?

(*g*) Are the Government considering the desirability of immediately withdrawing the ban?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) and (*g*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Permission to hold a meeting was refused in one instance.

(*d*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) The honourable member is informed that the answer has been given under (*d*) above.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (d) of unstarred question No. 58.

(*i*) To celebrate the Hindu Nation Day, (*ii*) the 28th October, 1939, and (*iii*) an order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, was in force prohibiting all meetings without permission and in view of the apprehension of disturbance of public order the meeting was prohibited under that order.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us as to whether a public meeting can be held now without the permission of the District Magistrate or the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I refer the honourable member to the orders and rules that have been published and notified and the matter of interpretation I leave to the honourable member

Abolition of Hindu hostel of the Chittagong College.

59. Mr. MOHIM CHANDRA DAS: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the year in which the Hindu hostel of the Chittagong College was abolished;

(*ii*) the purpose for which the building is now being used; and

(*iii*) what steps, if any, the Government have taken since then to give the Hindu boys some sort of hostel accommodation?

(*b*) How many hostels have since been constructed in the different districts of Bengal by Government?

(*c*) How many of them are for (1) Hindus, and (2) Muhammadans?

(*d*) Do the Government contemplate any scheme for the re-establishment of a hostel for Hindu boys of the Chittagong College?

(*e*) Has the Governing Body of the Chittagong College ever moved the Government in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) June, 1932.

(*ii*) Class rooms.

(*iii*) The Governing Body of the college recommended the constru tion of a hostel for the Hindu boys. As there was no suitable site the college compound on which the hostel could be built and as tl acquisition of land and the construction of a hostel building would co Government about a lakh of rupees and as the residential arrangeme was required only by a few students, the Principal was instructed find a house on rent to start a hostel as soon as there was reasonab demand for the same.

(*b*) One.

(*c*) (1) None and (2) one.

(*d*) Does not arise.

(*e*) Yes.

Case under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, against Mr. Sibnat Banerjee, M.L.A.

60. Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: Will the Hon'ble Ministe in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Department be pleased t state—

(*a*) what has been the total expenditure of Government on the cas under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, agains Mr. Sibnath Banerjee, M.L.A., started last year in the Cour of the Subdivisional Officer, Howrah;

(*b*) how long did the case last;

(*c*) how many prosecution witnesses were examined;

(*d*) at what rate was the Government Pleader paid in this case;

(*e*) how much did he receive in all in this case;

(*f*) what special reasons were there to appoint the Government Pleader instead of the Public Prosecutor;

(*g*) was the same Government Pleader engaged this year also fo (1) getting the sureties of Mr. Banerjee cancelled, and (2) for opposing the bail petition of Mr. Banerjee befor the Sessions Judge, Howrah; and

(*h*) how much did he get for these services to Government?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Rs. 1,130.

(*b*) From the 19th December, 1938, to the 5th June, 1939.

(*c*) 61.

(*d*) Rs. 45 per day.

(*e*) Rs. 1,130.

(*f*) He was considered competent to conduct the case.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) Rs. 192.

Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI : মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি বোলবেন মোকদ্দমায় prosecution witnessদের যে উপস্থিত করা হোয়েছিলো তাদের জন্য কি কিছুই খরচ করা হয় নাই ?

Mr. SPEAKER: How could he say that it was not spent?

Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: Witness দের খোরাকী বাবদ টাকা দেওয়া হয়েছিল কি না ?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of inference.

Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI : Sir, question এবং answer দুটোতেই witness দের কথা referred হোয়েছে।

Mr. SPEAKER: That means that nothing was spent.

Removal of headquarters of Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, from Chinsura to Howrah.

61. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the head office of Howrah-*cum*-Hooghly-*cum*-Bankura is situated at Chinsura;

(*ii*) that it causes inconvenience to the inhabitants of Howrah and Bankura and even of the majority of the people of Hooghly; and

(*iii*) that the people of Bankura have to go to Chinsura *via* Howrah?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of shifting the office of the Assistant Registrar of this Division to a more convenient place, preferably Howrah city?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) No.

(*iii*) They may go either *via* Howrah or *via* Chinsura.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Number of members of different communities in each union area.

62. Khan Bahadur MD. ANWARUL AZIM: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Political) Department be pleased to state whether Government in any department have the figures of Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Christians and Jains, union by union, for each district of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say whether the Government have figures of different communities, subdivision by subdivision, for each district?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Government have got no other statistics beyond those published in the census report.

Report of the Bengal Industrial Survey Committee.

63. Rai HARENDRANATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased—

(*a*) to lay on the table copies of the reports hitherto made by the Bengal Industrial Survey Committee since the formation of the Committee together with a statement of the actions taken thereon; and

(*b*) to state what recommendations, if any, the Committee have made in the light of the new situation created by the war for promoting industries?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) The Committee have submitted two interim reports on (1) Marketing of Cottage industries' products, and (2) Electrical development in Bengal. These reports are now under the consideration of the Agriculture and Industries and Commerce and Labour Departments, respectively. I regret that it will not be in the public interest to lay copies of the reports on the table as requested until these have been fully considered by Government and decisions taken thereon.

(*b*) It does not appear that the Committee have made any such recommendations as yet.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: With reference to part (*b*) of the answer, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the terms of reference of the Committee require them to make any such recommendation or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I am not sure. There must have been some instructions to the Committee.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: It is no question of assumption. The Hon'ble Minister has said in the answer "It does not appear that the Committee have made any such recommendation as yet". Am I to understand that the Committee is competent to make any such recommendations under the terms of reference?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, the question was to make a statement as to what recommendations, if any, the Committee have made in the light of the new situation created by the war for promoting industries. Sir, I think, there was no such reference so far as this is concerned because nobody foresaw that war will break out

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why in the last session he took shelter behind the appointment of this Committee?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise here.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: What other steps do Government propose to take for the promotion of industries in the void created by the war?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: That is a large question which I cannot answer off-hand.

Non-payment of salary to primary school teachers in Nandigram.

64. Maulvi RAJIBUDDIN TARAFDAR: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware that primary school teachers of Nandigram police-station in the district of Bogra are not getting their pay since March, 1939?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when free primary schools are likely to be started in the unions under Nandigram police-station, Bogra?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) I have no such information.

(*b*) When free primary education is introduced in the district of Bogra consequent on the imposition of education cess.

Granting of gratuity to the family of the late poet Ashraf Ali Khan

65. **Mr. MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(*i*) that poet Ashraf Ali Khan cut short his life by taking opium due to extreme poverty and starvation; and

(*ii*) that he has left a family without any one to look after and support them?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*)(*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of granting gratuity to the helpless family of the deceased?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take to help the poor and helpless literary men of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*)(*i*) I am told so.

(*ii*) I have no definite information.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Provision has already been made by Government for granting literary provisions in deserving cases.

Submission of a memorial by Work-Sarkars of the Communications and Works Department to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge.

66. **Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Work-Sarkars of Communications and Works Department sent a memorial to the Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Works Department through the proper channel in January, 1939?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a copy of it?

(*c*) Has any action been taken on the said memorial?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he proposes to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) Yes, several memorials have been received.

(*b*) A copy has been placed on the Library table.

(*c*) and (*d*) The matter is under consideration.

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I gave notice of an adjournment motion to which you have been pleased to give your consent.

Mr. SPEAKER: You need not read it. I have got it. I will just ask Sir Nazimuddin about it.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, on principle I object, because the question of policy of the Government about the Defence of India Act was discussed in an adjournment motion the other day and I feel, Sir, that any action taken by Government under the law cannot be discussed afterwards by means of an adjournment motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: What was discussed in the previous adjournment motion?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The policy behind the Defence of India Act.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: No, no.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I am sorry, Sir. The other ground is that this is a question which is not of sufficient importance and urgency as to suspend the normal business of the day. Action has been taken only against one paper and that is according to law as prevalent in Bengal, and unless it can be shown that there has been a number of similar action, I do not think that there is any justification for it.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Mr. Speaker, the first ground on which we propose to move the adjournment motion is that it is a flagrant abuse of the powers given by the Defence of India Act and the Rules thereunder. Secondly, the Hon'ble the Home Minister suggests that there is only one instance; but that instance, I submit, Sir, is sufficient for the purpose of drawing the attention of the House to the seriousness of the issue involved. I do understand and appreciate that while we are in the midst of the general discussion on the Budget, it may not be possible to have the discussion on the adjournment motion this evening. But if this evening is unsuitable or to-morrow evening is unsuitable, I do suggest on behalf of this side of the House that we should sit on Saturday having regard to the urgency and seriousness of the matter

Mr. SPEAKER: Why not discuss it on the General Administration Budget?

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: It is too serious a matter. That will mean that other matters which are fairly important will be shut out. This is a serious matter which really demands an adjournment motion and I hope the Government does not intend to shirk a discussion.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: We are perfectly willing and we will be very glad to discuss it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Basu, I want to be clear on this point, namely, you want to raise it on the issue that it is an abuse of powers under the Defence of India Act. Is that the issue?

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: That is one of the issues certainly.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think you can raise too many issues.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: No, Sir. But within the framework of the resolution the different considerations which will arise for discussion will certainly be relevant, in my submission, to this adjournment motion. The motion is on one particular definite matter, but different considerations might arise in discussing that definite matter of urgent public importance.

Mr. SPEAKER: One issue should be that it is a specific matter of recent occurrence.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Undoubtedly it is a specific matter of recent occurrence.

Mr. SPEAKER: But do you mean to say that whenever any action is taken by Government under the Defence of India Act, an adjournment motion is permissible?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If it is of grave importance.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to satisfy myself on one point. The free exercise of the powers under the Defence of India Act is not a matter for adjournment motion. What is the specific case here which makes it desirable that this matter should be treated as an adjournment motion?

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, so far as this particular occasion is concerned, it is the question of the liberty of the press that is involved. A newspaper of great importance, one of the leading dailies of Calcutta, has been visited with this order and in consequence it had to suspend publication of editorial articles. That also is mentioned in the written statement which I have submitted. Sir, that is a matter which certainly requires consideration by the House in an adjournment motion. It is a matter of general public importance.

Mr. SPEAKER: I quite realise your point, and I am quite prepared to consider the admissibility of it, provided you definitely tell me what are the issues or what is the matter which you are going to discuss, because I do not want to go beyond that. I have no power to go beyond that.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: The issue which we shall put forward is the order which has been served upon the Editor of the "Hindusthan Standard" and in so far as it indicates the policy of the Government with regard to such matters, that also might incidentally come in for consideration

Mr. SPEAKER: I do understand your point The only matter for which this motion can be brought is about the abuse of power for curtailing the liberty of the press

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: That I have stated already.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is an issue which can be admissible. The adjournment motion will be confined to that issue. Is there any objection to it? Those who are in favour of leave being granted will rise in their seats.

(Some members rose in their seats and a count was taken.)

In view of the fact that more than 50 members have risen, I hold that the motion is in order, and I fix the motion to be taken up immediately after the prayer adjournment, because I do not think it will be of any use to take up the motion now as there are only two minutes left for the prayer adjournment.

The motion before the House is that the business of the Assembly do stand adjourned to consider a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the action of the Government in issuing the order No. 1052 P., dated the 17th February, 1940, under clause (*a*) sub-rule (*1*) of rule 41 of the Defence of India Rules, directing the Editor of the "Hindusthan Standard" that all editorial articles commonly known as

leading articles intended for publication in the paper shall, before being published in the newspaper "Hindusthan Standard", be submitted for scrutiny to the Special Press Adviser, Calcutta, for a period of three months from the date of service of the said order.

(At this stage the House was adjourned till 6-20 p.m.)

(*After adjournment.*)

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move that the business of the Asembly do stand adjourned to consider a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the action of the Government in issuing the order No. 1052 P., dated the 17th February, 1940, under clause (*a*) sub-rule (*1*) of rule 41 of the Defence of India Rules, directing the Editor of the "Hindusthan Standard" that all editorial articles commonly known as leading articles intended for publication in the paper shall, before being published in the newspaper "Hindusthan Standard", be submitted for scrutiny to the Special Press Adviser, Calcutta, for a period of three months from the date of service of the said order.

Sir, when this morning in the "Hindusthan Standard" I found this order printed on the front page, I was looking for some indication in that order itself as to the reasons which actuated the Government of Bengal to take this most extraordinary step against one of the leading dailies of Calcutta. Sir, as a lawyer I have been accustomed to deal with and to come across executive orders which for the time being seek to curtail the liberty of individuals, but in almost all these cases a preamble is attached to that order for the purpose of indicating to the victim of that order what it was that actuated the powers that be to take such a drastic step against the person who has been singled out for executive favour of that particular kind. In the present case there is no indication whatsoever as to what was the reason why the Government of Bengal considered it necessary to take such an unprecedented step against the "Hindusthan Standard". I find, Sir, on a reference to the Defence of India Rules under which this action is purported to have been taken, that in the preamble it has been set out "Whereas an emergency has arisen which renders it necessary to provide for special measures to ensure the public safety and interest and the defence of British India and for the trial of certain offences". I thought that probably the action of the "Hindusthan Standard" might come within the purview of this preamble and that this particular newspaper might have been guilty of some action or some publication—publication of some news or editorial which would bring it within the necessity of safeguarding public safety and the interest of the defence of British India. And I also looked into the different items enumerated in section 2 of

the Ordinance No. 5 of 1939—and I found it stated—"Without prejudice to the generality of the powers conferred by sub-section (*1*), the rules may provide for, or may empower any authority to make orders providing for, all or any of the following matters, namely, (*v*) preventing the spreading without lawful authority or excuse of false reports or the prosecution of any purpose likely to cause disaffection or alarm, or to prejudice His Majesty's relations with foreign powers, or to promote feelings of enmity and hatred between different classes of His Majesty's subjects."

Sir, I have been a fairly regular reader of the "Hindusthan Standard" and I do not find within my recollection that there was any publication of any editorial in this paper which would bring it within the mischief of this clause 5, which alone could be considered to be at all relevant to this particular order which has been promulgated against them, because all other clauses relate practically to the prosecution of the war and contemplate measures which are necessary for the purpose of ensuring the due and successful prosecution of the war.

Now, Sir, I find that in this order, as I have said, there was no indication of the reasons which actuated the Government to promulgate the order and bring the "Hindusthan Standard" within the mischief of these rules. Sir, I was told immediately before this adjournment motion was taken up by you that there was some report going round in this Assembly that the "Hindusthan Standard" was guilty of having published some articles which might be considered to cause feelings of enmity and hatred between different classes of His Majesty's subjects. I do not know what exactly is in the mind of the Government and I do not know what attitude the Hon'ble the Home Minister will take up in this matter but in his reply I am expecting that he will vouchsafe to this Assembly some reasons for taking this most extraordinary action against a leading daily of Calcutta. But if I am to take the rumour at its face value this action might probably have originated in an article which appeared in the "Hindusthan Standard" in criticism of some of the members of the Government and in that connection making some observations with regard to the Moslem religion. Now, I find that on a subsequent day this particular newspaper came out with an editorial observation offering a complete apology for anything that might have appeared in that paper which might have hurt the feelings of our Moslem fellow-countrymen. Sir, I do not think that anything more could be expected of a responsible journal after what the editor had done in this matter; if for any reason objection was taken to any article which had found a place in the editorial columns of that newspaper it had made ample amends which could be made by a honourable and responsible journalist. Seeing that his observations might be open to misconstruction, he came forward with an unqualified apology and

expressed regret particularly when his attention was drawn by some other journals of the city. Those observations were conceived in a generous spirit, were conceived in a spirit of recognition of the impropriety of the step, if I may say so, that this newspaper had taken in publishing the article in question. (A VOICE: Can you read out this "ample apology"?) I am not here to read out that apology; let the Government come forward and say that it did not consider that apology ample and sufficient.

Mr. SPEAKER: I may say that no member will be allowed to interrupt a speaker on any side of the House. I hope members will realise that if any question is to be asked, if any point is to be raised, it should be raised after the speaker has finished in the proper parliamentary way.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: If the apologists of Government would like to support the action of Government on the ground that the apology was not considered sufficient, then I think they stand self-condemned. If the case for Government is that this apology was not sufficient or ample, and that the action taken by them justifies the outrageous step of asking the editor of this paper to submit all its editorials for a period of three months to the scrutiny of the Special Press Adviser, then I think, there cannot be a worse condemnation of their action. I do not think that it can be contended for one moment that a journal against which only one single instance of anything which might be characterised as a lapse for the time being has been brought forward should be subjected to this extreme penalty of subjecting all its editorials to the scrutiny of the Special Press Adviser for a period of three months. I do not think that the present Government in their desire to ride rough-shod over the liberties of the people in every direction has gone so far as in the present instance. May I ask for a moment if there was not ample provision in the ordinary law of the land to pursue this erring journalist, if erring he was in a court of law? May I ask Government to consider whether if his action was unjustifiable he could not be proceeded against in a criminal court under section 153A of the Indian Penal Code, for fomenting class hatred, for casting aspersions against a religion? There are other relevant sections also in the Penal Code under which action could be taken. And if after subjecting this article to judicial scrutiny it was found that it transgressed the limits of law then every right-minded man would have stood by the Government in their attempt to punish him in the usual course of law. But that was not done by Government. Take again for instance section 99A and the following sections of the Criminal Procedure Code—those sections which in spite of popular opposition were embodied in the Criminal Procedure Code. They have invested

the Government with the right to impose penalties upon a journal which according to them has published matters which would promote or were intended to promote feelings of enmity or hatred between the different classes of His Majesty's subjects. Under those sections Government could have inflicted the penalty by way of imposing a security upon the journal and could have forfeited that security if an appropriate occasion arose, but that would have given the victim of such an order the right to apply to the High Court and to obtain a decision setting aside the order of Government if it was found not in consonance with the requirements of the law. Therefore by this executive fiat they have avoided all legal difficulties, they have avoided all attempts on the part of the victim to approach a court of law and seek a remedy there. It is by means of this executive action that they have taken power for the purpose of strangling the expression of popular opinion for a period of three months.

Sir, I submit that this is an attempt on the part of Government to visit this journal which has never been for the last few years in the good books of the present Ministry to visit this journal with such punishment as might be available to Government for the purpose of wreaking vengeance on the paper for a period of three months, not in respect of any particular article, because such action on the part of the journalist was amenable to correction in a court of law; but they wanted to make an example of such criticism as might appear against them in other newspapers of the day.

Sir, in this connection one may ask why has this journal been singled out for such extremely drastic action? Are there not other journals in this city which day in and day out have been trampling under foot the wholesome provision of the law in the matter of prevention of enmity and hatred between the different classes of His Majesty's subjects? There are other journals in this city and I make bold to say—and many members of this House will bear me out when I say—that they have been equally guilty in their attempt to create disaffection amongst the different classes of His Majesty's subjects.

(At this stage the member reached the time-limit and resumed his seat.)

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, যুদ্ধের গুজুহাতে Defence of India Act নামক যে আইন তৈরী হয়েছে তার সাহায্য নিয়ে "হিন্দুস্থান ষ্ট্যাণ্ডার্ডের" কণ্ঠরোধ করবার এই যে চেষ্টা এটাকে জনসাধারণের দিক দিয়ে বিচার কোরতে গেলে অত্যন্ত অকল্যাণকর বলতে হবে। এতে দেশের মধ্যে একটা জরুরী অবস্থার সৃষ্টি হয়েছে। যদি যুদ্ধ জয় করাটা দেশের কল্যাণের জন্য প্রয়োজন হয় তাহলে এরকম কাজদ্বারা যুদ্ধ জয়ের প্রতিকূল অবস্থাই সৃষ্টি করা হোয়েছে। আমরা গোলাম, আমাদের গলার উপর প্রভুদের পা চাপান রোয়েছে, আমরা শৃঙ্খলিত—সেই সময় আমাদের বলা হোচ্ছে যাদের রাজনীতিচরণ

আমাদের গলার উপর চাপান দেয়েছে—তাদেরি পদতলে আমাদের সর্ব্বস্ব তাদের যুদ্ধ জয়ের জন্য অর্পণ করা হোক, কেননা প্রভুরা দুর্ব্বল দেশের আত্মাদের জন্যই সংগ্রাম ঘোষণা করেছেন। কিন্তু এইরূপ কাজের দ্বারা সকলকে বিশেষ কোরে বুঝিয়ে দেওয়া হচ্ছে—দুর্ব্বল জাতিদের স্বাধীনতা রক্ষার জন্য লড়াইএর কথাটা কতখানি ভুয়ো। এই রকম যুদ্ধের ওজুহাতে তথাকথিত ভারত রক্ষা আইনের অপপ্রয়োগদ্বারা সংবাদপত্রের কণ্ঠরোধ কোরে যুদ্ধ জয়ের প্রতিকূল অবস্থাই সৃষ্টি করা হোচ্চে। আমাদের এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের চলবার ধারা ও পদ্ধতির সঙ্গে দেশবাসী আজ বিশেষভাবে পরিচিত। হিন্দুস্থান ষ্টাণ্ডার্ডের বিরুদ্ধে এঁদের মনে কি আছে না আছে সে সব মনের কথা ভাল করে তাঁরাই জানেন, তবে এটা আমরা বহুদিন ধোরে দেখছি যে গভর্ণমেণ্টের অনেক নীতিও কাজের হিন্দুস্থান ষ্টাণ্ডার্ড তীব্রভাষায় সমালোচনা করেন। যেমন, ধরা যাক, গভর্ণমেণ্টের বন্দীমুক্তি নীতি। এ ব্যাপারে গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে মনোভাবের পরিচয় দিয়েছেন তা বিশেষ কোরে আমাদের রবীন্দ্রনাথের তোতাকাহিনীর গল্পটা মনে করিয়ে দেয়। তোতাকাহিনী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষাপদ্ধতির সমালোচনার জন্য রবীন্দ্রনাথ লিখেছেন, কিন্তু এখানেও দেখি গভর্ণমেণ্ট বন্দীদের সেই তোতাকাহিনীর তোতার মতন কোরেই প্রভুদের ইচ্ছামত আদবকায়দা শিখিয়ে তারপরে তাদের মুক্তি দিতে চান। তোতাকাহিনীতে আছে, তোতাকে কায়দাকানুন শেখানর জন্য রাশি রাশি পুঁথি পুস্তক, জাঁদরেল জাঁদরেল পণ্ডিত, কত কি এলো—কিন্তু শিক্ষার সব ব্যবস্থা ঠিক হবার পরে দেখা গেলো যে বেচারি তোতার পরমায়ু কখন নিঃশব্দে শেষ হোয়ে গেছে! কিন্তু পণ্ডিতদের বাহাদুরী হল এই যে plan টা নিখুঁত হয়েছিল! গভর্ণমেণ্টেরও বন্দীমুক্তি নীতি ঠিক তেম্নি। I. B., report, file, Committee কত কিছু; সর্ব্বোপরি স্বয়ং স্বরাষ্ট্র-সচিব বন্দীশালার চাবিকাঠি হাতে দরজার গোড়ায় বসে এক, দুই, তিন করে বন্দিদের ছাড়ছেন। যদি দরজা এক ইঞ্চি আধ ইঞ্চি ফাঁক করছেন ত অমনি ধড়মড় করে বন্ধ করে দিচ্ছেন। যেন সকলকে একসঙ্গে ছেড়ে দিলে কাজ ফুরবে বা মহাপ্রলয়ের সৃষ্টি হবে। যেন তা হলে——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid you are not discussing what the "Hindusthan Standard" wrote. You are discussing a general question. If you discuss what the "Hindusthan Standard" wrote, I am prepared to allow, but I am not prepared to allow the debate to degenerate into a general discussion.

MR. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: সভাপতি মহাশয়, বন্দীমুক্তি বিষয়ে এবং অন্যান্য বিষয়ে গভর্ণমেণ্টের যে নীতি তার তীব্র প্রতিবাদ ও সমালোচনা হিন্দুস্থান ষ্টাণ্ডার্ডে করা হোয়েছে। আমি বোলতে চাই যে এই জন্যই গভর্ণমেণ্ট হিন্দুস্থান ষ্টাণ্ডার্ডের উপর এত কুপিত। অবশ্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে তাদের এ দলননীতির সমর্থন কোরতে হয়তো যুক্তিও দেখানো হবে। কেননা— A tyrant is never in want of a plea কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্ট যদি খুসীমতন সংবাদপত্রের কণ্ঠরোধ কোরতে পারেন, তাহলে তাদের ক্রিয়াকলাপের কোন সমালোচনাই সম্ভব নয়। এবং সংবাদপত্রে যদি তাদের প্রতি সমালোচনার তীব্র কসাঘাত না কোরতে পারে তাহলে গভর্ণমেণ্টকে ঠিক পথে চালানো অসম্ভব। আমাদের দেশের বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্ট বৃটিশ বেয়নেটের আওতায় দাঁড়িয়ে—আমাদের [illegible]—আজ খুনে, ডাকাত বলে সম্ভাষণ কোরছেন, কিন্তু আমাদের সংবাদপত্রগুলি, বিশেষ করে হিন্দুস্থান ষ্টাণ্ডার্ড, দেখিয়ে দিয়েছে, বার বার কোরে বুঝিয়ে দিয়েছে, যে আমরা যতই কেন নিজেদের সিংহ, ব্যাঘ্র বোলে বর্ণনা করি না কেন, আমরা যে বুদ্ধি বিবেচনার পরিচয় দিয়ে থাকি সে হোচ্চে গো-বুদ্ধি! (laughter) কসাইখানা থেকে গরুতেই গরুর মাংস টেনে নিয়ে আসে। সেইকালে যদি গরু নিজেকে সিংহ, ব্যাঘ্র মনে করে, দম্ভ প্রকাশ করে, লম্ফঝম্ফ করে, তবে তার বুদ্ধিকে সুধীজন প্রশংসা করবে না, বলবে গো-বুদ্ধি।

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid you cannot discuss generally. You have got to confine yourself to what the "Hindusthan Standard" wrote. I cannot allow a general discussion about newspapers.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY: আচ্ছা, Sir, আমি অন্যভাবে বোলছি। আজ হিন্দুস্থান ষ্ট্যাণ্ডার্ড এর বিরুদ্ধে যা করা হয়েছে, কাল অন্য কাগজের বেলাতেও তাই করা হবে। আজ হিন্দুস্থান ষ্ট্যাণ্ডার্ড গভর্ণমেন্ট সম্বন্ধে যে ন্যায্য সমালোচনা করেছে, বন্দীমুক্তি সম্বন্ধে খোলাখুলিভাবে যা বলেছে সেইজন্য যে তার কণ্ঠরোধ করা হোলো—এই পথই যদি সরকার অনুসরণ কোরে চলেন তাহলে ত সর্বনাশ। বন্দীমুক্তি সম্বন্ধে সরকার কোন আন্দোলনই পছন্দ করেন না। কেননা বন্দীমুক্তি নিয়ে আন্দোলন করলেই নাকি violence এর চর্চা করা হবে। এ যুক্তি মন্দ নয়। দেশের ন্যায়সঙ্গত দাবীও সরকার মেটাবেন না আবার তা নিয়ে আন্দোলন করলেও violence জুজুর ভয় দেখাবেন। দেখা যাচ্ছে দেশটাকে কবরখানায় পরিণত না করে তাঁরা ছাড়বেন না। হিন্দুস্থান ষ্ট্যাণ্ডার্ডের কণ্ঠরোধ করার কারণ হিন্দুস্থান ষ্ট্যাণ্ডার্ডের মতে যে সব বন্দীরা একদা স্বাধীনতার জন্য লড়াই কোরেছেন তাঁরা ডি ভ্যালেরার জাতি, কামাল পাশার জাতি, আর যাঁরা নাকি তাঁদের চোর ডাকাত আখ্যা দিয়ে স্বজাতি হয়েও ধোরে রেখে দেন, তাঁরা মির্জাফর, উমিচাঁদের জাতি। এইভাবে হিন্দুস্থান ষ্ট্যাণ্ডার্ড যে বর্তমান মন্ত্রীদের বিরুদ্ধে বিদ্রূপ প্রকাশ কোরেছেন, দিনের পর দিন তাদের যে তীব্র সমালোচনা কোরেছেন, সেটা তাদের মনে খুব লেগেছে। কাজেই যুদ্ধসংক্রান্ত ব্যাপারে যে আইনটার সুযোগ তারা পেয়েছেন, যাকে নাকি আমরা বে-আইনী আইন না বোলে পারি না, সেই আইনের কবলে হিন্দুস্থান ষ্ট্যাণ্ডার্ডকে ফেলে তারা প্রতিশোধ তুলছেন। (Shame, Shame) যদি হিন্দুস্থান ষ্ট্যাণ্ডার্ডের কোন প্রবন্ধ অন্যায় হোয়ে থাকে সেজন্য আদালতে তার বিচার হোতে পারতো।

আমার আর বেশী কিছু বলবার নেই। আজকে হিন্দুস্থান ষ্ট্যাণ্ডার্ডের কণ্ঠরোধ কোরে বাংলাদেশের জনসাধারণের মনে ভয়ানক আঘাত দেওয়া হোয়েছে, এবং সেটা যারা নাকি জনসাধারণের প্রতিনিধিমূলক গভর্ণমেন্ট বোলে প্রচার কোরে থাকেন তাদেরি দ্বারা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়েছে। সুতরাং প্রতিনিধিমূলক গভর্ণমেন্ট যে একটা কাঁঠালের আমসত্ত্ব বা সোণার পাথরের বাটির মতনই একটা ভুয়ো জিনিষ সেটা এই ব্যাপারেই প্রমাণ হোয়েছে। অন্যান্য প্রদেশে, সিভিলিয়ানতন্ত্রের শাসনাধীনে পর্যন্ত সেখানকার গভর্ণমেন্টের বিরুদ্ধে অপ্রিয় লেখার জন্য কোন কাগজের সম্পাদকীয় প্রবন্ধ বন্ধ কোরে দেবার কোন কথাই যেখানে উঠেনি, সেখানে আমাদেরি তথাকথিত জনসাধারণের প্রতিনিধি স্বরাষ্ট্রসচিব বাংলাদেশের বুকের উপর বোসে এই কাণ্ডটা কোরে বোসলেন। দেখে আমরা লজ্জায় অধোবদন হয়েছি। যেখানে গণতন্ত্রের আমলে এইরকম আইনের ব্যবহার চলে সেখানকার সে ভুয়ো গণতন্ত্রের উপর বোমা পড়ে ধ্বংস হওয়া উচিত।

হিন্দুস্থান ষ্ট্যাণ্ডার্ড যদি কোন কাজ কোরে থাকে, জনসাধারণের স্বার্থের বিরুদ্ধে, তাহলে তাকে শাস্তি দেওয়া হোক। যাঁরা খয়েরখাঁগিরি করেন আর হাজার হাজার টাকা রোজগার কোরে থাকেন তাদের অন্যায় কার্যের প্রতিবাদ কোরলে বিদ্বেষপ্রচার করা হয় না। সুতরাং সমালোচনা অসহ্য হওয়ায় বোঝা যাচ্ছে আমাদের এই শাসনের ভিতর বেশ কিছু অন্যায় আছে। আমরা এখানে যারা আছি—বঙ্গীয় লুটপাট সমিতি বোলে—এই যে একটা সমিতির সভ্য, আমরা প্রজার মঙ্গলের জন্য কিছুই কোরছিনে (laughter) আমাদের স্বরাষ্ট্র সচিব কি মনে করেন যে আমরা কিছু সত্যকার স্বাধীনতা পেয়েছি? আমরা যদি—যাকে বলে স্বাধীন হওয়া—তাই হতাম তাহলে কি এইসব অন্যায় ব্যবস্থা চলতো? মন্ত্রীরা যদি জনসাধারণের সত্যকার প্রতিনিধি হতেন তাহলে হিন্দুস্থান ষ্ট্যাণ্ডার্ডের কঠোর মন্তব্যে ক্ষুব্ধ

হোতেন না, জলঘোলা করবার চেষ্টায় তার কন্ঠরোধ করতেন না, বরং তাদের সমালোচনা শুনতেন এবং শুনে বন্দীমুক্তি নীতির পরিবর্ত্তন কোরতেন এবং আরও অনেক কিছু করতেন। এরকম top heavy administration না চালিয়ে দেশের কল্যাণকর শাসনব্যবস্থার প্রচলন কোরতেন। যেখানে দেশের কোটি কোটি নরনারীর পেটে ভাত নাই, পরণে কাপড় নাই, শিক্ষা নাই, স্বাস্থ্য নাই, সেখানে তাদের প্রকৃত মঙ্গলজনক কাজের অনুষ্ঠানে তাহলে তারা ব্যাপৃত থাকতেন। সংবাদপত্রের কন্ঠরোধ করবার জন্য বাজে ওজুহাত দেখিয়ে এতটা ব্যস্ত হোতে হতো না। সেইজন্য এই শাসনপদ্ধতিকে যে ভুয়ো শাসনপদ্ধতি বলা হোয়েছে তা ঠিকই হয়েছে।

(Here the member reached the time limit and resumed his seat.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I should give this warning to the different speakers that we have barely time for 5 speakers to speak: so members will please take note of that.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I beg to accord my whole-hearted support to the motion of adjournment moved by our Deputy Leader, Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu. I hope the Hon'ble the Home Minister will pardon me if I begin by talking about him a bit humorously. At times I wonder whether we should not pronounce his name a little differently from what we generally do—whether we should not pronounce it as one would do the same word in Germany to-day. "Sir Nazimuddin" might as well be called "Sir Natzimuddin" without any injustice being done to the Hon'ble the Home Minister. That would be more appropriate. Sir, I do say with all the emphasis at my command that by his recent utterances, gestures and actions Sir Nazim is bidding fair to be a good Nazi—indeed he is bidding fair to out-Nazi a Nazi. Not satisfied with whisking away a dozen peaceful citizens of Calcutta only the other day on a pretext that has no legs to stand upon, he is now determined to muzzle the nationalist press of Bengal almost violently. If this method of administration is not the gangster method of administration I do not know what it is. Just think for a moment about the ban—the extraordinary ban—put on the "Hindusthan Standard". This ban, I beg to submit, has an extraordinary family resemblance to the rule issued in the year 1813 by Lord Hastings—a sort of an ordinance promulgated in those days just to muzzle the rising press of the time. The rule says that the proof-sheets of all newspapers including supplements and all extra publications must be previously sent to the Chief Secretary for revision. Sir, let me point out to the House, and I am sure that it is known at least to some members in this House, that since 1813—to be more accurate since 1823, till to-day this rule has been applied only once and that in the year 1823. This rule was not used even in the tumultuous time of the Sepoy Mutiny. There was no similar ordinance in Great Britain or in India during the last war. No such rule was promulgated or used during those days of the war when the "Emden" was carrying on havoc in the Bay of Bengal, and when guns were booming near the coasts of India. But what do we

find to-day? Why after more than 100 years the Government have thought it necessary to promulgate an ordinance of this nature—an ordinance which I will characterise as a lawless law. I am not going to discuss why but I would call the law a lawless law. I may merely mention that a law which is not based on the will of the people—a law that does not speak the people's mind and a law that does not embody the people's will is not a law. It is an executive fiat which may at times be disobeyed and history has shown that there is nothing wrong about it.

Now, Sir, may I ask what was the occasion to take action under the Defence of India Rules in Bengal? What has happened really in Bengal? Far far away from the booming of guns in Bengal, there are no frontier tribes to fight against, no Fakir of Ipi to deal with. In the North-West Frontier Province where there are frontier tribes and where there is the Fakir of Ipi no such measure has been found necessary. But why in Bengal? And then what has the "Hindusthan Standard" done to deserve this severe punishment from Government? Has the "Hindusthan Standard" written anything to incite the people of this province to violence? If it has done so, the arm of law—the ordinary law of the land—is long enough and strong enough to catch and punish the erring editor. Why then they take shelter under the extraordinary lawless law called the Defence of India Rules? That is the question.

Let me, Sir, tell the House one thing through you. The "Hindusthan Standard" has written no editorial this morning and has left the editorial space blank. This blank editorial space speaks volumes. This blank editorial of the "Hindusthan Standard" is a warning to the people who ought to know better. If the Government want to muzzle the press, if the Government want to muzzle the people, if the Government want to stifle genuine public opinion which demands free expression in the country Government must repent one day and that day is not very distant. I am sure that no one in this House will be able to point out one single sentence in any editorial written in the "Hindusthan Standard" which can be interpreted as incitement to violence. That is the main point. Unless people talk of violence, unless people incite others to violence, what is the necessity or justification for using an ordinance—an ordinance not approved by this Legislature, an ordinance not promulgated by the Provincial Government, an ordinance that comes from the Central Government. I say there is no justification for taking action under this ordinance. I submit, Sir, that the Bengal Government have done an act of grave injustice to the nationalist press of India—an injustice for which Government will have to repent—a grievous wrong which must be righted immediately in the best interest of the country

With these words, Sir, I once again accord my whole-hearted support to the motion of adjournment moved by our Deputy Leader, Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDOJA: Sir, it is unfortunate that I should be called upon to deliver my maiden speech in the heat and turmoil of a political discussion. Nevertheless, I feel that I have got to join issue with certain remarks and observations made by members of the Opposition in connection with an article against which the Government of Bengal has taken action.

The "Hindusthan Standard" and for the matter of that, any other journal in the province or in the world is quite at liberty to criticise any policy or measure of the Government, but in the name of the liberty of the press, in the name of freedom of the press, in the name of freedom of thought, in the name of nationalism, and in the name of all those high-sounding words which have been quoted wholesale from the texts of Europe and America, this journal should not be allowed to cast serious reflections not merely upon a system of Government in the most outrageous and provoking manner, but to create class hatred, thus complicating the whole situation, poisoning the springs of life, vitiating and corrupting the whole atmosphere and postponing the day of our salvation.

Sir, in all the various speeches that I have delivered from time to time during the last 20 years, I have always pleaded for better understanding and deeper reconciliation between communities and communities. I have tried to pave the way for that inter-communal harmony and peace which is the cry in this much distracted agitated land of ours. But when we find that forces are arrayed, and ranged, for condemning and denouncing the Government for the just action they have taken not to stifle freedom of the press, but to discourage the mischievous and nefarious activities of a dirty journal, we cannot but strongly approve of their action.

Muslims might tolerate, any Government might tolerate other things, but not this encroachment upon the cultural traditions, the sacred and inviolable rights of the community. Sir, the hectoring, arrogant, insolent attitude as reflected in the writings and editorials of this paper has been responsible for class hatred and bitterness between the various communities of Bengal. Any civilised Government which will have the courage to stop all these nefarious articles will have the encouragement, support and sympathy of every right-thinking and sensible citizen. We have condemned Hitler and Mussoloni. There is nothing to choose to-day between Hitler's Nazism and Russian Communism. In the name of Communism, in the name of socialism, in the name of Nazism, half a dozen tyrants are still now trying to

dominate the whole world. The Congress which has proved despite its professions of sympathy and good-will, more hectoring, more arrogant, more insolent so far as the other nationalists are concerned.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Is that in order?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Mr. Baddruddoja, you are going out of the limits of this adjournment motion.

Mr. SYED BADDRUDDOJA: Sir, these articles create disaffection not only against this Government established by law and order, but go still further. At a time when the British Government is in a state of war with the belligerent nations of Europe, articles like this encourage the detestable features of communism which every sensible and right-thinking man should condemn and reprobate. We can tolerate any fair criticism of Governmental measures, but we cannot tolerate or encourage in any way this reckless and wanton encroachment upon our religious rights and traditions which wounds our feelings and does terrible violence to our sentiments.

Sir, we have not encroached upon others' religious rights. This Government have never been responsibile for curtailing the religious liberties of the Hindus of Bengal, yet this journal goes to the length of saying, nay, attacking the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq who has been responsible for protecting the rights and liberties of the various communities in Bengal and providing adequate facilities and opportunities for their self-expression and giving them a chance to contribute to the political and social evolution of the common motherland. But while discussing, while criticising, while condemning the present Government, the journal has absolutely no business to go out of its way to cast reflection upon our religious traditions, to take liberties with Allah and Gabriel.

Sir, in the name of civilisation and culture, in the name of truth, in the name of all that is sublime and grand in human life, in the name of nationalism, in the name of humanity itself, much worse tyranny is being perpetrated than even by the Nazis. Hitler has at any rate the logical consistency of being honest in his naked brutality; but we find that in the name of nationalism——

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Sir, is this in order?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. Mr. Baddruddoja, you must confine yourself to the subject-matter of the adjournment motion.

Mr. SYED BADDRUDDOJA: Sir, I feel that I had been slightly irrelevant to the point. (Laughter from Opposition Benches.) But it is no use laughing, it is no use interrupting. My friends on the other side belong to a school of thought that has even sought to deprive other communities and nationalities in India of their legitimate rights and liberties. They have gone to the length of imposing at the point of the bayonet their political theories and ideals upon the Muslims. Sir, I was just referring to the fact simply to illustrate the point that this is not the first journal of its kind, this is not the first article of its kind, this is not the first utterance of its kind, this is not the first effusion of its kind, that is responsible for this class hatred. Any civilised Government will have the sympathy of all right-thinking men to discourage, and to check the vagaries of this journal, so that peace and tranquillity might prevail in this land, so that Muslims and Hindus and all classes and communities who are dreaming of a better Bengal, a happier Bengal, a prosperous Bengal, can achieve the consummation of the ideal, can achieve that cherished goal of peace and harmony. Therefore, in the interests of peace and harmony, in the interests of peaceful working of this Government, in the interests of law and order in the interests of rights and liberties of all communities, we have got to oppose the adjournment motion that has been moved this evening.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we were discussing the resolution on war a few months ago we had occasion to refer to the passing of the Defence of India Act and the possible operation of the rules framed thereunder in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the public at large. Sir, we thought that when that resolution was passed we would have some direct proof of the anxiety of the Hon'ble Ministers and their supporters to help in the prosecution of the war on behalf of Bengal or of India. We thought that if the Hon'ble the Chief Minister by reason of his age would be debarred from directly participating, at any rate it was quite possible that the Hon'ble the Home Minister would lead a national army of Bengal in defence of freedom and progress! But, Sir (interruption by the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy). The Hon'ble the Finance Minister interrupted me. I left him out of account because I know, Sir, that in times of war it will be difficult to take the Hon'ble the Finance Minister into anybody's confidence, because people know he is rather irresponsible for keeping State secrets. But, Sir, that is neither here nor there.

We find, Sir, that during the last three months the Defence of India Act and the Rules framed thereunder have been deliberately applied by the present Government for curtailing the liberty of persons and the freedom of the press. Sir, I make myself bold to make the statement and if the Hon'ble the Home Minister desires to controvert it, I would ask him to set up an independent commission of enquiry to

find out as to the real motives which lay behind the passing of orders under the Defence of India Act and the Rules framed thereunder.

Sir, why were these rules passed, why this Act was at all passed by the Central Legislature? The object was that in view of a state of emergency certain special powers had to be given to the Central Government and the Provincial Government, but it was made clear that all those special provisions would be applied not for the purpose of suppressing in an arbitrary manner any legitimate expression of opinion or activity but only in respect of matters relating to war, to the maintenance of public peace and tranquillity affecting the prosecution of such war. But what do we find? We find that repeated opportunities have been taken by the present Ministry to apply the provisions of the Defence of India Rules to matters which could have no connection whatsoever with the prosecution of war. I shall not refer here to the action taken by Government against individual persons, because that does not fall within the purview of the present adjournment motion, but I shall say that certain newspapers have been deliberately selected by the Government, whose policy had not been favourable to the policy adopted by the present Ministry, and there has been an organised attempt to suppress the legitimate expression of public opinion. (Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Shame, shame.) Whether such a newspaper belonged to an organisation which was against the policy of the Government and which might or might not have been owned by a Hindu, the order was applied. Whether the matter related to questions like the reading of Hindu boys and girls in maktabs—a matter which could possibly have nothing to do with the war, an order was passed on the "Ananda Bazar Patrika" warning that newspaper from publishing information regarding such matter and demanding as to from whom such information had been obtained. I ask, Sir,——

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Mookerjee, I am sorry to interrupt you, but that is not the subject-matter of the present adjournment motion.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, the "Hindusthan Standard" and the "Ananda Bazar Patrika" are under the same management; I hope, Sir, that you will permit me to raise the general question in an indirect manner. After all, Sir, what is the charge that has been made by the Government against the "Hindusthan Standard"? We do not know that. It is not an isolated attack on the "Hindusthan Standard"; it is merely an example. I say that the policy of Government has been to carry on a campaign of repression against newspapers whom it does not like.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: On a point of order, Sir. Are you prepared to accept that?

Mr. SPEAKER: No.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, I am putting it indirectly. I am not going into details, but I am just pointing out that the Defence of India Rules have been misapplied deliberately, and the "Hindusthan Standard" is merely an instance. There have been cases of other newspapers which have been made to suffer like this. (The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Name them.) I can mention the "Amrita Bazar Patrika", "Jugantar", "Matribhumi". Do you want any more? But not the "Star of India" or the "Azad", (laughter from the Congress Benches) which have carried on a systematic policy of attacks on Hindus.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, Dr. Mookerjee, you cannot mention other papers.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: The Hon'ble the Home Minister asked me for some information and so I have supplied him with the information.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are both at fault! (Laughter.)

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: I just want to say how this policy of misapplication of the Defence of India Rules has been carried on. In one case I issued a statement along with Mr. B. C. Chatterji with regard to certain repressions on the Hindus in some parts of the province. That statement appeared in the press under my signature, and I take, Sir, the fullest responsibility for every single statement made therein. If there is a single statement made therein for which Government thinks that I have violated the provisions of the law I ask the Government to proceed against me in the proper manner, but what did the Ministry do? The Ministry called upon a particular newspaper which published comments on that statement and warned it against future repetition of such publication. I ask when the Ministry violated the same procedure, when the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq's statement appeared in the columns of "The Statesman" from day to day, where were the Defence of India Rules? Why were they not applied for publishing news similar to what was published in the Indian-owned papers. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from Opposition Benches.)

With regard to this particular article, I would appeal to the House —let us consider this matter dispassionately. I would certainly say that none of us, whether we are Hindus or Muslims or Christians, should say anything or do anything which might wound the religious feelings of any community. (A MEMBER: Thank you.) If you thank

me sincerely then I wish you god-speed (laughter) but you do not thank me sincerely. That is my attitude with regard to the general question. If any particular newspaper has published any article which unintentionally has wounded the feelings of a particular community, what does that newspaper do? The newspaper publishes an apology. May I cite, Sir, a parallel case? What did not Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq do at Jubbulpore? What sort of speech did he deliver? Will you scrutinise that statement and try to satisfy yourself whether it comes within the purview of the Defence of India Rules? Was not that spread of class hatred? But what did he do? He handsomely apologised to the public of Bengal. Will the Government of Bengal now proceed to take steps against the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq under the Defence of India Rules or the Indian Penal Code? No, because he has apologised and you accept his apology! But what do we find with regard to the "Hindusthan Standard"? Supposing that an article has been written which has wounded the religious feelings of a community and an apology is published in the same paper, will you accept the apology? Certainly not, because it is the "Hindusthan Standard", and you would like to have an opportunity of crushing that newspaper! What is the order that you pass? Will the House refer to rule 41? Rule 41 says: "If, in the opinion of the Provincial Government, it is necessary or expedient for the enforcement of these rules, the Provincial Government may, by order addressed to a printer, publisher, or editor, or to printers, publishers and editors generally,—require that all matter, or any matter relating to a particular subject or class of subjects, shall, before being published in any document or class of documents, be submitted for scrutiny to an authority specified in the order".

Now, Sir, I find that it is under rule 41 *(1)* that the order has been passed by the Government of Bengal. What is the order? It is that all editorial articles are to be placed before the Special Press Adviser for scrutiny under this rule. I ask, Sir, is it covered by the rule itself? It says, "any matter relating to a particular subject or class of subjects". The Government of India was not troubling itself about the internal worries and difficulties of the Ministry of Bengal. The Government of India was thinking about matters relating to war and the prosecution of war. The Government of India says in these rules that this order must apply to a certain class of matters only which are mentioned in these rules. But where do you get this power to pass a general order that no editorial article will be published in the "Hindusthan Standard" without the approval of the Press Officer? (Cries of "Shame, shame" from the Opposition Benches.) I ask, Sir, whether this does not show the *mala fides* of the Government of Bengal. I say this deliberately. We want to be led to a court of law. If you are anxious to go to a court of law you persuade the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq to take the matter to a

court of law to prosecute the editor of the "Hindustan Standard". (Dr. NALINIKSHA SANYAL: They dare not!) I say this deliberately that we have to proceed with matters like this with a little caution. I would appeal—if that appeal is worth anything—to the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq who is calling a Round Table Conference day after to-morrow. (AN OPPOSITION MEMBER: Bogus conference!) What will the conference do, if this is the attitude shown by the Ministry over which the Hon'ble Mr. Fazlul Huq presides? I would like to know from the Hon'ble the Chief Minister—is he really anxious that there should be a proper atmosphere in the province leading to an amicable settlement between the two great communities? If that is so, let him proceed with justice and with fairness, and let him show that the atmosphere which he wants to see created in Bengal is such that the people of the province will have immediate confidence in him and in his Government. If we find that his words say something and his deeds show something else, then what answer will Bengal give?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He is a hypocrite.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order Dr. Sanyal, will you withdraw that expression "hypocrite"?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I have not used any expression.

Mr. SPEAKER: I distinctly heard you to have said "he is a hypocrite".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I maintain, Sir, I have not used the word "hypocrite". If, however, you want me to withdraw that word I am quite ready to do so.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not want to put into your mouth any word if you have not used it. But I am quite sure that when Dr. Mookerjee was saying "What answer will Bengal give" you interrupted him from your side of the House and I distinctly heard you say "he is a hypocrite".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have not given it as my opinion. I only said so in reply to what Bengal will say.

Mr. SPEAKER: Did you say anything else beyond saying he is a hypocrite?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes, Sir, I am quite prepared to withdraw what I said.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I am sorry, Dr. Sanyal, you do not remember your position as a member of the House and have the good grace of admitting what you did say.

Did you or did you not use those words? I for myself did not hear you utter anything beyond these words.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I again, say, Sir, that I gave the answer as to what Bengal would think, if I may be permitted to give any explanation, Dr. Mookerjee asked a question and to that question I only gave an answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, the issue is quite clear. The question is whether you used the words "he is a hypocrite" or not.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: As I have already submitted, Sir, I am quite prepared to withdraw the expression.

Mr. SPEAKER: But I must know what are the facts—whether you used those words or not.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I withdraw it.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: Sir, this interruption has taken place in spite of your previous ruling that there should be no interruptions, when a member is speaking.

I would just conclude with an expression of opinion that the Government should realise that there is a strong public feeling among all sections of the community with regard to the application of the Defence of India Rules by the present Government, and I would ask the Government to take suitable action to allay such feeling. It is no use riding rough shod over public opinion. You can do so in this House, because you happen to have a majority here, but if once the public of Bengal feel that there can be no justice from the present Ministry then action may be taken on lines which will not be to the best interests of the Government or of the province as a whole. I would, therefore, appeal to the Government to rise equal to the occasion if really we are going to have a favourable atmosphere created for this province, and to make a declaration that all cases of orders passed under the Defence of India Rules would be considered by a small independent committee. Let the committee of three sit and go through all these cases and satisfy the public of Bengal that no order has been passed for reasons which cannot be upheld in the public eye.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Speaker, Sir,——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Apologist!

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, this interruption of yours is in the nature of obstructing the proceedings of the House. The next time I find that you are obstructing in this way, it shall be my painful duty to take recourse to the power which I have got to prevent such obstruction.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I hope, Sir, my time will not be shortened by reason of this interruption.

Sir, conscience makes cowards of us all. The honourable mover of to-day's motion for adjournment has proved to me completely that he dared not quote the article upon which this wretched editor has been punished. It is surprising that honourable gentlemen sitting opposite have not yet realised——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. Is it parliamentary to call an editor "wretched" particularly when he is not here to defend himself; besides he has not been convicted by any authority.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot say whether it is unparliamentary but I may say that this method has probably been learnt by Mr. Siddiqi from you.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But, Sir, I have not as yet called him a wretched member.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: This unworthy editor——

Mr. SPEAKER: I think, Mr. Siddiqi, as a member of this House you will realise that it is altogether undesirable that you should say anything which is in the nature of a reflection on any one, however much others might do the same.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have every right to command me and I shall certainly obey you, but when my Allah and my religion are insulted in this manner there is no——

(Cries of "Oh, oh" from Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal.)

Even licence should have a limit. Sir, three years of the most awkard and vile variety of journalism and public utterances have been tolerated. They would have been tolerated till doomsday and for all Eternity, but I hope honourable gentlemen opposite will realise that there are points and there are subjects in which no sort of licence, no sort even of liberty can be granted. *Mala fides* was the word that has been used. Sir, to take shelter behind the intricacies of the criminal laws of India and to try to ridicule the provisions of the

Defence of India Act under which action has been taken is to flog an almost dead horse. It is not worthy of the Hon'ble the Leader of the Opposition to lend himself to such a procedure and to ride rough-shod over the deepest religious sentiments of Muslims. He ought to realise that the Mussalmans feel deeply where religion is concerned. If Government had not taken action in this matter, an adjournment motion or something still fiercer would have been moved by members on this side of the House. We feel, Sir, that liberty and even licence have been allowed too far and too long. Honourable members opposite come here and tell us that the Defence of the Realm Act should not have been used. Sir, in peaceful times when there was no war friends of gentlemen opposite used the powers under the innocent-looking section, which they and we all know too well, section 144, in Bombay where the Government did not ask any editor to send his articles for scrutiny, but simply stopped 14 newspapers because they had criticised their prohibition policy. Now, with that example before us I cannot understand how gentlemen opposite dare come out and ask this Government to do this and not to do that and demand that a committee be appointed to see whether action should be taken or action should not be taken against editors who violate all cannons of decent journalism, editors who know so little of our religion, who know so little of our sentiments and feelings. I declare, Sir, with all the sense of responsibility that I possess that if action had not been taken there were Mussalmans inside and outside this House who would have done something worse. I warn gentlemen opposite that they may play with the Government, they may play with politics, but they shall not play with my Allah, with my Prophet, with the angel Gabriel; in one word with my religion. We cry halt there. Sir, challenges have been thrown down and we have been threatened with dire consequences. I accept as many challenges as they will throw. We shall tolerate any amount of humbug from them but when religion is ridiculed and attacked, when Allah is played with and when Mr. Fazlul Huq is supposed to be receiving *wahi*, messages from the Almighty—*wahi* stopped so far as we are concerned with the last of the Prophets—when any person whether he be a Hindu or a Mussalman plays with us in this manner, if the Government fails to take action, it will be our duty to stand up and defend our faith. We must then take action. You cannot imagine, Sir, how happy I was yesterday, when I found that the honourable and learned Leader of the Opposition had performed his duty for the last time as a Leader of the Opposition. His speech on the budget pleased me because there was constructive criticism of the financial statement in it. I felt hopeful that opposition for the sake of opposition, as heretofore, had come to an end, that perhaps the world had changed and that perhaps we were going to have better and more peaceful days in this Assembly. But this motion of adjournment on a subject which makes one's blood boil should make him and

his colleagues hang down their heads in shame. They take shelter, as I have said, behind legal quibbles, whether action should have been taken under the Defence of the Realm Act or under section 153 of the Indian Penal Code and so on but they seem to be afraid of telling the world the cause of action. That does not show a mentality for the re-establishment of friendship or brotherhood. We are ready and we have been ready for years past for friendship. But, as I have already said, there must be a limit to our vilification. Let them realise that if you play with our Allah and His Prophet we shall begin to play with you. There will then be no limit to which things will go. If you are prepared for that, we are prepared to give you battle and start a civil war if you so desire. For God's sake, I appeal to Allah and I do not appeal to any worldly Government——

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: On a point of order, Sir. এ সম্বন্ধে বর্ত্তমান বক্তা হিন্দুস্থান ষ্টাণ্ডার্ডের লেখার সমালোচনা না কোরে ক্রমাগত কেবল আল্লার কথাটার অবতারণা কোরছেন, আমার মনে হয় বক্তার পক্ষে এটা ঠিক হোচ্ছে না।

Mr. SPEAKER: You may rest assured that I am trying to keep the debate within limits. I think he did not infringe the limits which were permitted to him, although he was almost going to do it.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: Does he want the Opposition to accept the challenge?

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: As a businessman my mind sometimes runs amock. When the honourable mover of the adjournment motion was speaking I began to wonder whether the motion for adjournment was intended to be a big stunt, a piece of wonderful advertisement for the newspaper under question for which, evidently after last year's experience with the "Amrita Bazar Patrika", our critics opposite have all too suddenly developed deep love and affection. (A VOICE: It does not require subsidy.) Subsidy or no subsidy, if any journal in India or even outside goes to the length to which this paper has gone we shall not tolerate it. It has been said that as an apology has been submitted everything should be forgotten and forgiven. Sir, the apology is neither sincere nor genuine. From that apology I deduce another conclusion and that is that even the editor has realised the heinousness of the crime he has committed against a portion, the majority portion of the people of this province. The apology, as worded and the manner in which it has been offered, is the outcome of fear and the dread of retribution. You cannot gain the liberty of the press, liberty of speech, liberty of association that you are thinking of by running us down, by running our institutions down, by running our religion down, and by running our God down..

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: On a point of order, Sir. About which article in the "Hindusthan Standard" is the honourable member speaking?

Mr. SPEAKER: Before you interrupted I wish you realised that Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu also referred to certain articles in the "Hindusthan Standard" but he did not mention the date, and probably he is replying to it.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: The honourable member would not have asked me the question if his leaders had taken him into confidence. The honourable mover of the adjournment motion dare not do that or read the article before the House. I challenge him to read that article before half a dozen fair-minded Hindus, who will at once realise that what I am saying is correct. He dare not show it to his friends. He dare not contradict what I am saying. Need I go further? The editor himself has realised the seriousness of the crime. After that, to say "I apologize" is not enough. I wish there had not been only the scrutiny. I wish the paper had been crushed for ever. We do not want this type of journalism. If the honourable member wants to know I would refer him to the leading article, on which action was taken, the heading of which is "From Type to Type", published in the "Hindusthan Standard" on the 7th February. I have tried to understand it. To many ideologists, it may be that gods can become human beings. To the Mussalmans this principle is objectionable and unwelcome. Before I sit down, Sir, may I inform my Mussalman brothers of the Krishak Praja Party that it is all very well to act as henchmen and camp-followers of Congress friends who have no love for us——

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Is the honourable member in order in using the expression "henchmen"?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is unparliamentary.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: They are the followers——

Mr. SPEAKER: You must withdraw that expression.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I withdraw the expression that has been objected to. What we feel, Sir, is that when we make an argument and it happens to be telling, there is an uproar, a barrage of interferences and interruptions and they rush to seek your protection. We on this side also seek your protection. They do not allow us to speak. I protested against this once before and I protest against it now.

I appeal again to the Mussalmans sitting opposite that if you have any love for Allah, if you have any love for the Prophet Muhammad——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. A member has to address the Speaker and not other members, and the honourable member concerned has been addressing certain members as "you and you". That is unparliamentary.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I plead guilty to the serious charge. I hope I shall be forgiven. I appeal to the Mussalmans sitting opposite, through you, Sir, to remember that they can play with politics as they like but when they also begin to play with Allah, with Muhammad-ibn-Abdullah, and Gabriel-*alaihis-Salam* (may the peace of Allah be on him) I warn them that they shall not be allowed to face any Muslim audience or any Muslim people. They stood up all right in support of this motion. Let us hope that they will one day have the courage to stand up before Allah whom the "Hindusthan Standard" has traduced and has tried to bring into disgrace and Gabriel of whom I imagine they are as proud as I am, whom the writer has turned into a source of mahatmaic inspiration. We do not believe in that. I am prepared to go as far as I can in my toleration but there are limits, as I have said, even to this. I again appeal to them, through you, Sir, and say "Do not be misled by cheap enunciations and repetitions of legal formula". This matter is fundamental. This matter cannot be allowed to be played with. If the Government had not taken action, I do not know what would have happened and what serious results would have come out of this terrible position. My last appeal to the Opposition through you, Sir, is "For goodness' sake, do not put a heavier burden and do not put a greater pressure on us than we can bear. We are anxious to come to a political understanding with you. But this sort of action where you stand up in defence of one who insults us and uses language unworthy of decent journalism—about our Creator and all that is holy to us and make it the subject of an adjournment motion, you are doing us a wrong. For goodness' sake, stop it, otherwise the repurcussions will be terrible"

(Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose rose to speak.)

Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: Sir, I would ask your kind permission to speak for 5 minutes only on behalf of the Muslims of this side of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already called on Mr. Bose to speak.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: There are still 45 minutes left. So, may I follow Mr. Nausher Ali?

Mr. SPEAKER: It will be very difficult. I had once the bitter experience of giving time to Mr. Nausher Ali and I do not know whether he will stick to his 5 minutes.

Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: Yes, Sir, I will speak only for 5 minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: But you have not made any compensation for your past action up till now. Moreover I would have been prepared to allow you 5 minutes but there are two speakers from the Treasury Bench—the Chief Minister and probably the Home Minister; so sufficient time must be left for them.

Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: I can assure you that I will not take more than 5 minutes. If I do, you may expel me from this House for all time. (Laughter.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I wanted to expel you before but Mr. Bose objected to it.

Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKAR: Sir, may I speak for 5 minutes?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is open to the House. Mr. Nausher Ali, you may speak for 5 minutes.

Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI: Sir, it has been stated that this order has been passed on account of an article that wounded the religious feelings of the Mussalmans and consequently the Defence of India Rules have been applied in the case of this paper.

Apart from the question whether the Defence of India Rules are applicable under these circumstances or not, I should like just to say a word or two with regard to the reflections made on the Mussalman members on this side of the House. Whatever opinion the Muslim Ministry of Bengal or certain zealous supporters of theirs may hold about us, we feel that we are Muslims, we really believe in Islam and we are trying our best to serve Islam, to serve the best interests of the Muslims of Bengal and of India and to spread the real spirit of Islam throughout the country. Sir, as a Muslim I say and I declare that it is a sin to wound the religious feelings of anybody, be he a Hindu, a Muslim, a Christian or anybody professing any faith whatsoever. And it is to be deeply regretted that the "Hindusthan Standard" published an editorial which wounded the feelings of the Muslims. I myself happened to read the editorial and it struck me at once that the language of that editorial was objectionable. But the paper apologised and the Muslims of Bengal and of India, I think, are

generous enough to accept that apology (cries of "Hear," "hear" from the Opposition Benches.) Apart from the question of apology, the Muslim Ministry of Bengal could have very easily taken action under section 153A of the Indian Penal Code; but they did not do so. And, as far as I know, similar offending articles with regard to the religious sentiments of others in this country have appeared in other papers and no action whatsoever has been taken (cries of "Shame", "shame" from Opposition Benches). Sir, I say and declare in the strongest term possible that the "Hindusthan Standard" did wrong in publishing that editorial. But as true Muslims (knowing that to err is human and that paper apologised) we on this side of the House cannot afford to be so un-Islamic as to punish a paper that has already apologised (cries of "Hear", "hear" from the Congress Benches). And I think no Muslim true to their religion, true to their God, true to their Prophet, true to the real Islamic spirit, would support this vindictive action of the Ministry—of the Muslim Ministry. I know there have been publications in the press in support of the Ministry which have wounded the feelings of many, not only the religious feelings of other committees, but of the Muslim community as well. There have been acts done by the present Ministry, by their Muslim supporters in this very House, which are absolutely un-Islamic, which are revolting to the religious sentiment of every Muslim anywhere in the world and the Ministry have taken no actions——

(Here the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Sir, when earlier this evening we were discussing the question of the admissibility of this motion, I observed that one of the grounds on which we put forward this motion was that the action of the Government was a flagrant abuse of the provisions of the Defence of India Rules. My honourable and learned friend, Dr. Syamaprasad Mookherjee, has drawn the attention of the House to some of the provisions of the Defence of India Act and the Rules made thereunder. But may I draw the attention of the House in the first place to the preamble of the Act? It was an Act to provide for special measures to ensure the public safety and interest, and the preamble says—"whereas an emergency has arisen which renders it necessary to provide for special measures to ensure the public safety and interest". The preamble mentions, as is the fact, that these are special measures, and the occasion for introducing these special measures has also been mentioned, viz., that an emergency has arisen. And what is the emergency? The emergency is the war in Europe. Therefore taking the preamble with the Act, one cannot have any doubt that this Act and the rules made thereunder were intended to apply to a very different class of cases. These special measures have not yet repealed the general law of the land.

If you felt that an article or articles was or were calculated to foment the spirit of hatred and enmity among different communities of India, well, there is the general law to deal with the offender.

The second ground on which I say that the action of Government is an abuse of the provisions of the rule is this: I refer to rule 41, sub-rule (*1*), clause (*a*), which is quoted in the order itself. That rule makes it absolutely clear—clear beyond a shadow of doubt—that what the Provincial Government can do is to require that "all matter" —which obviously means the whole paper—can be suspended, and it proceeds further and says—"any matter relating to a particular subject". Surely the honourable and learned Home Minister will not contend—once upon a time he was a lawyer and I believe he still is—that he can bring himself within this provision "any matter relating to a particular subject". I could have understood an order of this nature, namely, "we prohibit in your paper any discussion on any religious matter or anything which will throw any discredit on any particular religion".

Then, Sir, the rule proceeds further and adds—"or class of subjects". The Home Minister, I venture to submit, cannot bring himself under the Act or the Rules because the order which has been passed is that "all editorial articles commonly known as leading articles" intended for publication shall be submitted for scrutiny. Therefore, Sir, on these two grounds,—considering first the general scheme of the Act, the general purpose of the Act, the situation which it is intended to meet, and secondly, considering the provisions in the rules,—on both these grounds, I would submit to the House without any fear of contradiction that this order on the "Hindusthan Standard" is a flagrant abuse of the provisions of the Defence of India Act and the rules made thereunder. But, Sir, that order opens up really a wider question. My honourable friend Mr. Siddiqi started by making the complaint that Mr. Santosh Basu had not read out in this House the offending article. I wish he had paused for one moment to consider whether having made that complaint it was his own duty to read out that leading article. Why does he fight shy of that leading article? I agree that any person who had a command of the English language would not have written in that strain. But are we in the political arena—and I ask Mr. Siddiqi in particular—familiar or unfamiliar with the expression "God's chosen men"? Are we familiar or unfamiliar in the political arena with the expression "Great God"? What has been done by the editor? I would certainly confess that I would not have done so and Mr. Siddiqi, I am sure, would not have done it. In the place of the word "God", he has substituted "Allah". I know in matters religious we are sensitive—both Hindus and Mussalmans are sensitive, and therefore utmost care should be taken in composing a leading article. But the

offence whatever it was, has been atoned for by the apology which my honourable and learned friend Mr. Naushir Ali referred to. The apology was in these terms: "We are sorry that our article of the 7th February last should have given the 'Azad' an occasion for a controversy. We have already explained that it was far from our intention to show disrespect to any faith and our contemporary itself has in effect admitted it. If, however, there were any expressions in the article which have given offence to our Muslim brethren, we sincerely regret it. We need hardly assure them that 'Allah' stands for Godhead."

Mr. Speaker, my "Srikrishna" or my "Ma Kali" may or may not be "Allah" to my honourable friend Mr. Siddiqi. But as a Hindu—I may add as a pious Hindu—I am not ashamed to confess that his "Allah" is my "Sri Krishna"; his "Allah" is my "Ma Kali". It is in that spirit that we must approach each other's religion, and if the "Hindusthan Standard's" editor has offended in anyway, he has atoned for it by expressing sincere regret to the Muslim public and the Muslim readers of the newspaper

Then Mr. Siddiqi says in defence of the Government action that only the editor has been punished. The editor, Mr Siddiqi ought to have remembered, has not been punished The editor could have been punished for his offence if he had been brought up before a court of law. The person or persons punished are the proprietors of the newspaper and the readers of that newspaper. I ask Mr. Siddiqi to advise the Government to take steps against the editor if he thinks that the editor has transgressed the law and I will pause for a reply when the Home Minister gets up to reply on behalf of Government.

Sir, the order which has been served on the "Hindusthan Standard" is really reminiscent of the rough and ready days in which Warren Hastings lived and worked. That Imperial Tyrant conjured up "State necessity" for the purpose of depriving the press of its legitimate rights and to stifle public opinion. Warren Hastings on the 14th November, 1780—I am giving this instance because during the discussion on the admissibility of the motion the Home Minister said that he had gone against only one paper—Warren Hastings did go against one paper; but unfortunately for him the editor and the proprietor of that paper were Englishmen. From Fort William on the 17th November, 1780, he issued a public notice in these terms: "Public notice is hereby given that a weekly newspaper called the 'Bengal Gazette or the Calcutta General Advertiser' printed by J. A. Hicky has lately been found to contain several improper paragraphs tending to villify private characters and to disturb the peace of the land. It is no longer permitted to be circulated through the channel of the General Post Office." But of course his successor —not his immediate successor it is true—Lord Hastings went a step

further and promulgated certain rules which were somewhat on the lines of the rules which have now been framed by the Central Legislature. But Lord Hastings came to grief. He realised that he had done a wrong and therefore he encouraged the succeeding editor of the paper against whom he had proceeded to start a propaganda for the removal of those press laws He himself advised it. The name of the editor was Dr. James Bryce. Sir, those were days when Englishmen in India were true to their traditions; those were days when they did not leave the traditions behind, did not drop them in the Suez Canal before proceeding to India.

Dr. SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE: You do not know what they will do to-day.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Then, Sir, when those press rules were promulgated by the then Chief Secretary one Mr. John Adams, they were not taken lying down by the public of Bengal. Persons who objected to those rules are honoured names in history,—Chandra Kumar Tagore, Dwaraka Nath Tagore, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Prasanna Kumar Tagore, Hem Chandra Ghosh and others. They petitioned the Supreme Court for the abrogation of those rules. But, Sir, the days of petitioning are gone. The days of enforcement of public opinion and the ways and means of such enforcement have come. And if our appeal to the Government of the day goes in vain—I state to this House, if our appeal to the Government goes in vain we shall not only raise a storm of protest in this city and province but speaking as the Leader of the Opposition I shall consider it my duty to render the proceedings of this House impossible until the action taken by Government is withdrawn. I say so, Sir, in all seriousness, not in a spirit of threat, not in a spirit of challenge but in order to show the volume and intensity of public feeling in respect of this matter and I take responsibility for the action of every single member of the Opposition who will follow me in that course. (Cries of "Hear", "hear" from the Opposition Benches.)

Sir, I have only about six minutes more but I think I should give the House an instance of what was done during the Sepoy Mutiny. Surely that was a much more serious affair than the present war in Europe so far as India was concerned. What did an Englishman, who if I mistake not was the father of that great lawyer and congressman Eardley Norton, do? I believe my friends on the left, the European members will remember that Eardley Norton was a Congressman up to the last day of his life. John Bruce Norton, the father of Eardley Norton, in his book "Rebellion in India" which was written shortly after the Sepoy Mutiny said, "even in France the press has its three warnings. In Austria despotism is not so despotic as it is in India. Our gag is a garotte."

* * *

I ask the Hon'ble the Home Minister, was any warning addressed to this editor for having used the name of the "Great Allah" so many times in that article of the 7th of February? I ask, was he given a warning either verbally or in writing? I ask, was his attention drawn to the offending article—I mean, offending according to Government? As John Bruce Norton says, "even in France the press has its three warnings". But in this case as far as I am aware no warning was given. The warning was the order of the 17th of February which was served on the 21st. Was any prior warning given? I pause for a reply. No warning was given in respect of the article of the 7th February and yet this order was passed. The order was passed on the the 17th but it was served on the 21st after the editor had made an apology in the columns of his paper. Surely any Government in its senses would have considered ten times before issuing an order of this nature.

Now, Sir, there are one or two other matters with which I would like to deal. I would like on this occasion to read the words of John Bruce Norton on that occasion. He said, "Let them depend upon it that this attack upon the press is in reality intended to screen the cowardice and incapacity——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Mr. Bose, your time is up.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: As my time is up, may I just conclude with this observation that if the Ministers thus persevere in misadvising and misleading the Governor I will not say, Sir, that the Governor is betrayed because that is his own concern, but I shall pronounce that this province is undone?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I am extremely thankful to my friend Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu for having tabled this motion of adjournment, because it gives me an opportunity of explaining to this House and to the members who have been so long supporting this Government the reasons which have induced Government to pass this order. I will not waste the time of the House by using the language of convention but I will place certain facts—cold facts in cold print which, I hope, will carry conviction to every fair-minded person that a crisis had been reached in which there was no alternative for the Government but to pass this order. I will show, Sir, that the particular article which appeared in the issue of the "Hindusthan Standard" under the heading "From type to type" was not a solitary instance of its kind. This paper has been guilty of frequent attacks on Moslem religion or Allah and His Prophet in its editorial articles and it has been supporting communism not merely by its remarks but even by quoting articles from continental papers discrediting the motives of Great Britain in the present war. Sir, I

will read extracts from only three articles since the Ordinance and the Rules have been promulgated. The first article appeared in its issue of December 8, with reference to what is known as the "Deliverance Day". I will read only a few sentences. This is what the paper writes: "On the 22nd day of December of the year of the Christian Lord, 1939, the Mussalmans all over India will rise from bed and greet the sun with the inspiring message that they have earned their deliverance. One has heard of the Day of Judgment and the faithful on this earth and in the grave are anxiously waiting for that Day." It is a flippant attack on the Muslim creed about the Day of Judgment.

Then, Sir, it goes on to say—I ask the members of this House to listen to me—"Where Mr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah has failed, Allah has succeeded. In His infinite wisdom and out of the abundance of His bounteous nature Allah has ordained that Mr. Tom instead of Mr. Rajagopalachariar, Mr. Dick instead of Mr. Kher and Mr. Harry instead of Pandit Govind Ballav Pant should take charge of Mr. Jinnah and the soul of Islam that he alone represents and regulate and control the destiny of seventy-five millions of faithful Mussalmans and Mr. Jinnah's co-religionists."

Then comes another passage: "Mr. Jinnah has given a practical demonstration of that unusual event or process by beating his own past and proud records. Instead of kneeling down before the great Allah and seeking light from Gabriel he has now chosen to kneel down before the Governors' British advisers and seek deliverance at their hands." (Cries of "Shame, shame".)

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Is it an attack on Allah or on Mr. Jinnah?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I am putting before the House the Muslim point of view, and I am sorry if my non-Muslim friends on the other side do not realise the importance of the matter from the Muslim point of view.

Now, Sir, in an article dated December 12, under the heading "Method in Madness" this paper says: "When the Congress calls upon the British Government to declare their war and peace aims in relation to India, Mr. Jinnah appears in the role of a Haji and solemnly tells the world that Allah has ordained that the British should not listen to the Congress demand and instead go on protecting the Mussalmans, their culture, their tradition and their religion with all their dog-like tenancity."

Then comes again the article dated February 7, under the heading "From type to type", from which I wish to read only a few extracts. It says: "Something must have happened to bring about this dramatic

change in the Bengal Premier's mental and political outlook. Mr. Fazlul Huq who confesses to fits of political disorderliness as being the result of his emotional temperament seems to be returning to his senses." Then it goes on: "Is it still sanctified by the great Allah and blessed by His Gabriel? Does it yet serve as the scriptural text for the Hon'ble Maulvi A. K. Fazlul Huq and the 'faithful' who have chosen to rally under his holy banner?"

Then, Sir, comes the passage to which I wish to draw the pointed attention of the members of the House: "Mr. Fazlul Huq and those whom he has had in view under the triple command of the all-wise Allah, the gracious gods and goddesses and the mystic Mahatma constituting as they do the Holy Trinity of the modern man."

Now, Sir, I ask my friend Mr. Nausher Ali and all Muslims whom he represents if they can conceive of a trinity composed of Allah and gods and goddesses and Mahatma Gandhi? (Cries of "Shame, shame").

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Let Maulana give a fatwa.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Then, Sir, there are certain extracts about open incitement to Communism.

I will read one or two extracts more. Another article—another leading article, under the date 3rd December, contains the following: "With Russia fighting on its side and definitely pledged to the overthrow of the Helsinki Government it is expected that things will settle down in a short time and that the new Government will establish not only its *de facto* but its *de jure* authority—a fact which proves that there has been internal conflict on an ideological plane between the different parties. Russia's advance is no aggression but a friendly aid to the forces of the socialist revolution." Sir, I could multiply instances like this.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: What is wrong with this article?

Mr. SPEAKER: May I remind the House that when the Leader of the Opposition was speaking he was not interrupted for one single second, and I cannot allow any interruption at this stage when the Hon'ble the Chief Minister is developing his arguments. I will certainly allow Mr. Bose to put in his question after his speech is over.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Mr. Speaker, I shall bow to your ruling but I say that it is not right.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry that you say so.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I will not read any further extracts. Sir, much has been said on the question of apology. But, Sir, had this been only a single article, or a single occasion, the apology might have been accepted, but the performances of this paper before the war are quite well known. And after the war had broken out and the rules had been promulgated no less than 10 warnings had been given to this paper: first on the 5th September, 1939, second on the 9th September, third on the 11th September, fourth on the 15th September, fifth on the 16th September, sixth on the 20th September, seventh on the 21st November, eighth on the 29th November, ninth on the 7th December and the tenth and the last on the 23rd December, 1939.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: May I ask if any warning was addressed to the editor in respect of the article which he has just now read?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Well, Sir, the article was published on the 7th February, 1940, and a comment appeared in the "Star of India", and it is the reply to that comment which made matters worse. The order was issued dated the 17th February, but it could not be delivered on the following day, the 18th being a Sunday. The paper came to know about it on the noon of the next day and it published the belated apology. (Mr. Niharendra Dutta Mazumdar: Sir, the Chief Minister has evaded the question.) I submit that a paper which has been consistently flouting the authorities and which had been guilty of violating all rules and laws for the preservation of peace, particularly at a time of war, should not be allowed to get another chance, because events have shown that the paper is absolutely incorrigible. Sir, I do not wish to take the time of the House further. It is not the intention of Government to stifle fair and honest criticism, or when papers make even personal attacks on the Ministers; the Ministry do not care if they do so, but Sir, where it is a question of dragging down the Allah and Gabriel and making a Trinity of the Allah, the gods and goddesses and Mahatma Gandhi, then I do say that a serious situation arises which disturbs the public peace and tranquillity. I know that after this editorial had been published there was an attempt to hold a demonstration in Calcutta. Sir, what would have been the result in Calcutta when lakhs and lakhs of Muslims would have come out into the streets making a demonstration? There would also have been counter-demonstrations and there might have been a conflict also. Journalists and politicians should know and remember the inflammable materials with which they have to deal in politics. They can do whatever

they like. But so far as religious beliefs are concerned, they should have respect for the religious views and feelings of others, and they must know that the Muslims——

(The Hon'ble the Chief Minister having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Nawabzada K. NASARULLAH: Sir, I move that the question be now put.

Mr. SPEAKER: Anyway, the time for putting the question has arrived. So, I will now put the question.

The motion that the House do now adjourn was then put and lost.

Adjournment.

It being 8-10 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Friday, the 23rd February, 1940, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 23rd February, 1939, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 220 members.

Mr. JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Sir, I am afraid there is no quorum of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I adjourn the House for twenty minutes.

(The House was adjourned till 5-5 p.m.)

(After adjournment.)

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I am sorry, Sir, I could not come in time. I was in this building but unfortunately the bell was out of order and we did not hear the bell at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am very sorry. But I have been discharging my duty for the last three years by reminding the Government department about certain arrangements in the matter of electricity, audibility of the House, provision for servants' quarters, and various other things. I have always felt that in a building like this you cannot tinker away and attend to these things in a small way here and there. You have to do it in a manner that would adequately cope with the problem. Unfortunately I have not been successful in this respect. These are the difficulties, and I may tell the Hon'ble the Home Minister that if these things go on I will straight away adjourn the House, and it would be entirely the responsibility of the Government to manage its own affairs. It is impossible to carry on if these things are not looked into. The acoustic property of this House is so bad that Government departments should have taken steps to get it examined by experts. May I know from the Hon'ble the Home Minister as to why no steps have been taken in the matter in spite of the strong protests that have been made from all sides of the House? I don't know which department is responsible for this, but during the last three years no steps whatsoever have been taken.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: May I ask whether any action is in contemplation?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not know whether the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Works Department will be able to tell me anything about it.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, we only carry out the orders of the Home Department in these matters.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am glad to hear that. I hope the Home Department will take necessary steps in the matter.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Arrest of one Duryodhan Sardar of Roygram Union in Jessore.

***65. Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware that a man named Duryodhan Sardar (Mandal) of Roygram Union, police-station Lohagara in the district of Jessore, has been arrested several times?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many times the man was arrested;

(*ii*) what were the charges against him each time; and

(*iii*) how long he was kept in the *hajat* as an undertrial prisoner in each case?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the man was kept in the *hajat* of Jhenida for more than two months and the police did not file a charge sheet against him?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the man was convicted on any of the charges brought by the police?

(*e*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) and (*b*) (*i*) My information is that he was arrested only twice.

(*ii*) For dacoity in both cases.

(*iii*) Three months and one month respectively.

(*c*) He was in Jhenida *hajat* for three weeks.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Does not arise.

Burning of "Kali tree" near Madhai Bazar in Chandina police-station, Tippera.

*66. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware—

(*i*) that there was a holy tree known as "Kali tree" near Madhai Bazar within police-station Chandina, Sadar subdivision, Tippera, which used to be worshipped by the Hindu inhabitants of the locality for a long time past;

(*ii*) that at a distance of 100 yards from the tree and to the south of it is a *musjid;*

(*iii*) that Muslims of the locality set fire to the tree;

(*iv*) that on the second occasion when the Muslims set fire to the tree the local defence party caught hold of a Muhammadan and sent him to the police-station;

(*v*) that about 500 Muslims on the night of the 25th October last set fire to the tree again and demolished the tree;

(*vi*) that the District Magistrate had seen the fire at the foot of the tree; and

(*vii*) that the District Magistrate was approached but no step was taken by him in the matter?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, do the Government consider the desirability of making an enquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) A banian tree near Madhai Bazar on the main road from Comilla to Chittagong came to notice as a holy tree or *Kaligach* more or less simultaneously with the preparations to remove it made by one Rajkumar Chaukidar, who had bought it from the Public Works Department about a year ago. There is little evidence that it was previously an object of veneration.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) The tree has since been set fire to, but there is no proof that this was done by Muslims. A Muslim was hauled to the police-station on the 20th October, 1939, by Rajkumar and two others on an allegation that he had fired the tree but he was released as the officer-in-charge found no evidence in support of the allegation.

(*v*) I have made enquiries but there is no information to this effect.

(*vi*) No: the District Magistrate however saw marks of burning on parts of the tree on the 24th October, 1939.

(*vii*) No.

(*b*) The District Magistrate has enquired and settled the matter to the satisfaction of the local people and there is no necessity for further enquiry into the matter.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us the name of the officer in charge of Chandina police-station?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I ask for notice.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the steps that were taken which satisfied the local people?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I ask for notice.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the local people include the Hindus as well?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Certainly.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: With reference to answer (*v*) where it is said, "I have made enquiries but there is no information to this effect," will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us who actually made the enquiries?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I made the enquiries through the local officers.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us who the local officers referred to are?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The District Magistrate.

Communal ratio in services in departments under the Hon'ble Labour Minister.

***67. Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state how many—

(*i*) officers, and

(*ii*) clerks,

have been appointed in the departments in his charge since the 1st April, 1937?

(*b*) How many of them are—

(*i*) Muslims;

(*ii*) Scheduled Castes; and

(*iii*) other communities?

(*c*) Has any order been issued to the different departments in his charge to give effect to the ratio question in appointing officers and clerks from different communities of this Province?

(*d*) If so, will he be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the same?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) (*i*) 6 and (*ii*) 37.

(*b*) (*i*) 19 (including 2 officers).

(*ii*) 5 (including 1 officer).

(*iii*) 19 (including 3 officers).

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) A copy of the Home (Appointment) Department memorandum of August, 1939, is laid on the Library table.

Admission into guru training schools in Dinajpur district.

***68. Maulvi HAFIZUDDIN CHOUDHURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the total number of *gurus*, caste by caste, now receiving training in the guru training schools in the district of Dinajpur; and

(*ii*) whether any departmental instructions have been issued regarding admission of *gurus* into the guru training schools?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the said instructions were followed during the last admission of *gurus* in Dinajpur district?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(*d*) What action does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take for the observance of the departmental instructions in future?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq):

(*a*) (*i*) Muhammadans		... 47
Caste Hindus		... 18
(Kayastha	... 4	
Brahmin	... 8	
Vaisya	... 1	
Mahisya	.. 3	
Chhatri	... 2)	
Scheduled Castes		... 15
	Total	... 80

(*ii*) Yes. Instructions were issued in May, 1939, to the effect that from the session 1940, twenty-eight seats should be reserved for students of the Scheduled Castes in the district of Dinajpur on a population basis, provided the candidates satisfy the minimum educational qualifications; further that, if any seats reserved for Scheduled Caste teachers remain vacant for want of qualified candidates, the vacancies should be filled from among the qualified candidates of other communities according to local needs and circumstances.

(*b*) to (*d*) Do not arise.

Registration of certain jute-growing areas in Mymensingh.

***69. Mr. MONOMOHAN DAS:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department aware—

(*i*) that there are many jute-growing areas, such as *char*, *bil* and low lands where no other substitutes can be produced excepting jute;

(*ii*) that the jute-growers of those areas sow the jute seeds at the early stage of the sowing season; and

(*iii*) that many jute-growing areas, in the east part of Mymensingh and also in other districts of this type, could not be sown earlier for drought this year (1939) and the lands sown lately were damaged by early water?

(*b*) With reference to the answer to clause (*a*) of starred question No. 46 of the 6th December, 1939, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, are proposed to be taken for the record of the lands referred to in (*a*) without direct proof of the old jute roots underground?

MINISTER in charge of the ACRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) (*i*) I am aware that there are areas of this nature where it would be difficult and perhaps unremunerative to grow crops other than jute, but I have no accurate information as to the general extent of such areas. An enquiry is now being made on this subject.

(*ii*) Yes. It is well known that lowlying areas are sown at an early stage of the sowing season.

(*iii*) In some jute-growing areas timely sowing was not possible in 1939 owing to drought and in a few cases there was damage owing to early flood.

(*b*) So far as the record of jute lands which is now being prepared is concerned, action has already been taken to ascertain from Collectors the areas where sowings were not made on account of drought in 1939 and in the areas so reported the record has been made on the basis of the area under jute in the previous year.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: With reference to (*a*) (*i*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the methods adopted by the authorities for this enquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The statement is not correct so far as the present date is concerned. The enquiry mentioned here refers to the enquiry that was made by the Collector to ascertain the areas where only jute could be grown.

Mr. ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the enquiry has been finished?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Yes; it has been finished.

Muslim percentage in Subdivisional Inspectors of Schools in Dinajpur district.

***70. Maulvi HAFIZUDDIN CHOUDHURY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many Subdivisional Inspectors of Schools are at present in the district of Dinajpur; and

(*ii*) how many of them are Muslims?

(*b*) If the number of Muslim Subdivisional Inspectors of Schools is not at par with the percentage of Muslim population of the district, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps he proposes to take for increasing the number of Muslim Subdivisional Inspectors in the district?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) One.

(*ii*) One.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINCHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the proportion of Hindu and Muslim population in the district of Rangpur is 50:50?

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is about Dinajpur and not Rangpur. I am sorry a question of this kind has been put. Members should take some caution in putting supplementary questions.

Rural Reconstruction Scheme in Jessore district.

***71. Khan Bahadur Maulana AHMED ALI ENAYETPURI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Rural Reconstruction Department be pleased to state whether the Director of Rural Reconstruction has up till now visited the Jessore district?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) which places he visited, and when;

(*ii*) what was the purpose of his visit;

(*iii*) what was the result of the visit;

(*iv*) what amount, if any, was granted by this department to the district; and

(*v*) where it has been spent?

(c) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) the reason for neglecting this district; and

(ii) how he proposes to rectify it?

MINISTER in charge of the RURAL RECONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) (i) The Director of Rural Reconstruction visited Jessore town, Churamankati in Sadar subdivision of the district and Kaliganj in Jhenida subdivision in April, 1938, and villages Jainagar and Kalia in the Narail subdivision in January and September, 1939, respectively.

(ii) The purpose of his visits was to advise local officers and people in the organisation of rural welfare work and to create enthusiasm for such work.

(iii) As a result of his visits rural reconstruction and water-hyacinth clearance works are going on satisfactorily in several localities in the district under the guidance and supervision of local officers.

(iv) The main principle of rural reconstruction work is self-help. Most of the work is done by organisation of voluntary labour and if any expenditure is found indispensable it is raised by *Musti* or other form of self-taxation. The question of any amount being granted by the department therefore does not arise. An amount of Rs. 9,850 has however been paid so far out of the augmented discretionary grant at the disposal of the District Officer for rural welfare work in the district by way of supplementing and encouraging local efforts.

(c) As the Rural Reconstruction Department has not made any grant, the question does not arise. I am not in possession of the details as to the places where the grants given by the District Officer have been utilised.

(c) Does not arise.

Guru training schools in Dinajpur district.

*72. **Maulvi HAFIZUDDIN CHOUDHURY:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state how many guru training schools are there in the district of Dinajpur?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any Muslim has ever been posted in any of these schools as Head Master since the establishment of guru training schools in this district?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) Two.

(*b*) Two Muslims were appointed as Head Masters of the Thakurgaon Guru Training School, one in 1920 and another in 1922, but no Muslim was appointed as Head Master of the Dinajpur Guru Training School on a permanent basis. Three Muslims, however, acted as Head Masters of the Dinajpur Guru Training School during the years 1937 and 1938.

Rural uplift work in Rajshahi district.

*73. **Maulvi MANIRUDDIN AKHAND:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Rural Reconstruction Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of village associations, if any, formed in the Rajshahi district for the expansion of the existing plan of the rural reconstruction in Bengal;

(*b*) whether any paid staff has been employed in the villages for organisation and for propaganda;

(*c*) whether the local bodies in the district have been co-operating in the matter; and

(*d*) the amount of financial assistance, if any, given by the Government towards the scheme in the Rajshahi district?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) 909.

(*b*) No paid staff has been appointed. The work is being done by the organisation of voluntary workers.

(*c*) Yes; most of the Union Boards have been co-operating in rural uplift work.

(*d*) The whole organisation is based on the principle of self-help. Most of the work is done by the organisation of voluntary labour and if any expenditure is required it is met by means of *Musti* and other forms of easy self-taxation. There is therefore hardly any question of financial assistance by Government. An amount of Rs. 4,056 has however been paid so far from the augmented discretionary grant of the District Officer for rural reconstruction by way of supplementing and encouraging local efforts.

Amiranessa Khatun Wakf Estate of Gopalpur in district Faridpur.

*74. **Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state when was the Amiranessa Khatun Wakf Estate of Gopalpur, police-station Kalkini, district Faridpur, enrolled under the Bengal Wakf Act of 1934?

(*b*) What were the annual income and expenditure as also the assets and liabilities of the estate at the time it was enrolled?

(*c*) What is the present financial position of the estate?

(*d*) What steps have been taken by the Wakf Commissioner for the proper management of the estate?

(*e*) Has any of the properties of the said estate been sold after its enrolment under the Wakf Act?

(*f*) If so, what are the reasons?

(*g*) Has the Wakf Commissioner adopted any reorganisation scheme to save the estate and to protect the interests of the beneficiaries?

(*h*) If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) In April, 1936.

(*b*) In the enrolment application the gross income was shown as Rs. 21,723 and the net income as Rs. 11,958, the statutory liabilities being Rs. 9,765.

(*c*) Bad.

(*d*) In consultation with the Subdivisional Officer of Madaripur, a committee of management consisting of the following gentlemen was appointed for the administration of the estate:—

Maulvi Golam Moula Chowdhury, Zemindar.

Maulvi Tafail Ahmed of Kastagar.

Maulvi Syed Abdur Rob Chowdhury, Senior Mutwalli.

Maulvi Mominuddin Ahmed, B.L., Pleader.

Maulvi Afsar Hossain Khandakar, Vice-President, Dashar Union Board.

But the committee has not been able to effect much improvement on account of the obstruction of the Mutwalli.

(*e*) Some properties have been sold.

(*f*) For arrears of revenue.

(*g*) All action that could be taken under the Act has been taken without much effect. Unless the Mutwalli is removed and the management placed in other hands there is little chance of improving the estate. This the law does not empower the Commissioner of Wakfs to do. The question of the amendment of the law to enable such action to be taken is under my consideration.

(*h*) Does not arise.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: With reference to answer (*e*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the purpose of the *wakf* has been frustrated by the sale of some of the properties?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I would like to have notice because I cannot answer offhand.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons why the Wakf Commissioner did not pay the revenue to protect the estate from being sold for arrears of revenue?

Mr. SPEAKER: You have first to ask whether it is the liability of the Commissioner.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Wakf Commissioner has the right to pay the revenue and thus save the property from being sold for arrears of revenue and, if so, will he state the reasons why the Wakf Commissioner did not do so?

Mr. SPEAKER: The latter part of the question does not arise.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I could not follow the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: His question is whether under the Wakf Act, the Commissioner of Wakfs is bound to pay the rent of a property in case it is put up for sale for arrears of rent.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: He has no funds from which to pay.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Has he the right to pay?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: If he has funds to pay, he can do so. But there is no statutory obligation.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the nature of the obstruction that the mutwalli put against the improvement of the estate?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state by what time the amendment of the Wakf Act is likely to be brought before this House?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: There are other questions also on this point and although the draft is ready, I have not been able to introduce the Bill because the opinions received on many of the important provisions have been very conflicting. We are still considering the question, and all I can say is that I might be able to introduce the Bill in the July session.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is in charge of collecting rents from the tenants of this estate?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I cannot answer that question.

Official use of the term "Muslim" instead of "Muhammadan, etc.".

***75. Maulvi MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Political) Department aware—

(*i*) that a feeling exists amongst the Muslims of Bengal against using the word "Muhammadan" and its other forms; and

(*ii*) that the word "Muhammadan" and its other forms give a very restricted and narrow sense of the word "Muslim"?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal propose to adopt the word "Muslim" in all Government records, correspondences and other papers in connection with the administration of the Province of Bengal instead of the words "Muhammedan", "Mohammedan", "Mahomedan" and "Mahomadan"?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) As far as possible, yes

Communal ratio of appointments made by Chief Inspector of Jute Registration, Dacca.

***76. Maulvi MD. ABDUL HAKIM VIKRAMPURI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately—

(*a*) the number of (1) Muslim, (2) Caste Hindu, and (3) Scheduled Caste employees of every denomination appointed by the Chief Inspector of Jute Registration, Dacca;

(*b*) the qualifications of the Chief Inspector; and

(*c*) the grounds of his appointment as Chief Inspector?

The Hon'ble Mr TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) All appointments were made by the Director of Land Records, Bengal, in consultation with the Chief Controller of Jute Registration. The Chief Inspector of Jute Registration, Dacca, was however asked to assist in the selection of area copyists, primary recorders, office peons and clerks at the Dacca centre only, there being two other centres at Manikganj and Narayanganj in the district. A statement showing the communal allocation of the appointments made at the Dacca centre is placed on the table.

(*b*) He is a Bachelor-of-Law, with training in survey and experience at the Bar for about 8 years.

(*c*) He had considerable experience in work of this nature as Inspector and Chief Inspector of Jute Census in Dacca and other districts in 1938 and as Chief Inspector of Jute Census in Rangpur in 1939. Both by education and experience he was considered as one of the best available candidates.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 76.

		Muslims	Caste Hindus.	Scheduled Castes.
Area copyists	..	29	21	7
Primary recorders	..	52	42	9
Office peons	..	2	2	1
Clerks	..	2	1	1

Mr. MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many Schedule Caste candidates applied for area copyists, primary recorders, office peons and clerks, respectively?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, I want notice.

High and middle English schools in the district of Jalpaiguri.

***77. Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of (1) high English schools, and (2) middle English schools existing at present in the district of Jalpaiguri;

(*ii*) the number of them that get Government recurring grant-in-aid; and

(*iii*) the amount of grant-in-aid which each of them gets?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that the following thanas have got only one middle English school within their respective boundaries:—

(1) Tetulia,

(2) Falakata,

(3) Kumargramduar, and

(4) Dhupguri; and

(*ii*) that these schools are receiving no Government recurring grant-in-aid?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of—

(*i*) Scheduled Caste boys and (*ii*) Muslim boys receiving Government monthly scholarships, general or special, for higher education in colleges; and

(*iii*) the number of applicants for such scholarships from each community separately?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that Jalpaiguri is one of the most backward districts in Bengal in education;

(*ii*) that excepting a negligible small percentage the indigenous population of the district are poor agriculturists; and

(*iii*) that about three-fourths of the Hindu population are of Scheduled Castes?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of spending more money for middle English, high English and higher education of the indigenous population of the district?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes, but the schools receive District Board grant-in-aid.

(*c*) Nil.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Instructions are being given to the Director of Public Instruction to take necessary steps in this direction.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 77, regarding particulars of Government aid to high schools and middle English schools in the district of Jalpaiguri.

	High English schools.	Middle English schools.
Number of schools ..	6	21
Number of schools that get Government recurring grant-in-aid	5	5

The amount of grant-in-aid which each of the schools gets per month—

	Rs.		Rs.
Alipur Duar High English.	172	Panchagarh Middle English.	35
Boda High English.	125	Sakowa Middle English.	35
Debiganj N. N. High English.	125	Bakali Middle English	25
Domohani Polwhele High English.	100	Patgram Middle English.	25
Sonaulla Institute	140	Mahakalguri M. M. E.	50

Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (c) whether instructions have already been given to the Director of Public Instruction to take necessary steps in this direction?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: When the reply was drafted instructions were being given. Now they have already been given.

Suspension of workers of Painting Department of Nonapukur Workshop of Calcutta Tramways, Company, Limited.

***78. Mr. B. MUKHERJEE:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department aware—

(i) that as a result of the suspension of 17 workers of the Painting Department in the Nonapukur Workshop of the Calcutta Tramways Company, Limited, the workers together with the Secretary of the Calcutta Tramway Workers' Union sought an interview with the Assistant Labour Commissioner and the Labour Commissioner, Government of Bengal, for placing their case before them on the 28th November, 1939;

(*ii*) that the Secretary of the Tramway Workers' Union was refused an interview by both the Assistant Labour Commissioner and the Labour Commissioner;

(*iii*) that the Tramway Workers' Union is registered under the Indian Trade Union Act; and

(*iv*) that the said Secretary was turned out of their offices by both the officers;

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he proposes to take in the matter?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for preventing peaceful negotiations in the case of a dispute between workmen and employers by authorised representatives of registered trade unions?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) (*i*) and (*iii*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes, but the men concerned were interviewed and their grievance was noted for examination

(*iv*) No.

(*b*) None.

(*c*) There has never been any question of preventing peaceful negotiations in this case

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is the duty of the Labour Commissioner and the Assistant Labour Commissioner to see any Secretary of any registered union whenever he goes to see them?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: It does, Sir. The Secretary of the Tramway Workers' Union went to see the Labour Commissioner and the Assistant Labour Commissioner, but they did not see him.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: That depends.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the special circumstance which prevented the Labour Commissioner from seeing the Secretary of the Tramway Workers' Union?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The Secretary of this Union was present at the time when the Labour Officer interviewed the

17 workmen. He took their statements down and the Secretary at that moment offered his comments which were taken down. Thereafter when the matter went up to the Assistant Labour Commissioner and the Labour Commissioner they did not think it necessary to see the Secretary, particularly because the Secretary is the Secretary of a Union which is not recognised by the Tramway Company.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Did the Secretary of the Union ask for a special interview?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, he did not ask for a special interview.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Is there any rule to the effect that the Labour Commissioner should see only the Secretaries of recognised Unions?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a general question. It does not arise.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: The Hon'ble Minister stated that because the Union was not recognised by the Tramway Company, so there was no point in seeing the Secretary. The question I should ask is this, that apart from the fact whether certain employers recognise a particular Union or not, is it not the duty of the Registrar of Trade Unions to grant interviews to the Secretaries of Trade Unions when they wish to go and meet the Registrar?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: As I have said before, that depends.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that this is not the first complaint of bad behaviour on the part of the Registrar of Trade Unions towards Trade Union Secretaries?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, Sir. Far from not being aware of it, I make bold to say here in this House that the Labour Commissioner is invariably courteous to Trade Unions and their Secretaries.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: With reference to the answer to the question that the said Secretary was turned out of their offices by both the officers, did the Hon'ble Minister make any enquiries directly of the persons aggrieved by this alleged action of the officers concerned?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, that question arises in this way. The question was tabled and there was a definite statement made for which the questioner took responsibility, namely, that the Labour Commissioner and the Assistant Labour Commissioner were discourteous enough to turn out the Secretary of their offices. When this question was tabled, I ask, did the Hon'ble Minister make any enquiries to ascertain the truth of the statement contained in this question?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has given the answer. You cannot ask as to the method of his giving the answer

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: I am asking the question specifically, did the Hon'ble Minister——

Mr. SPEAKER: I can understand your question. You had better put it in this way, "Will the Hon'ble Minister make a personal enquiry into the matter." If that was the question, then it would have arisen; otherwise you will have to ask whether he is prepared to make a personal enquiry.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Thank you, Sir. I will amend the question and ask, was the Hon'ble Minister pleased to make any personal enquiries?

Mr. SPEAKER: No, no. You ask him, is he prepared to make a personal enquiry?

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: He might say that it is a request for action

Mr. SPEAKER: No, no. At any rate I won't say that

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Is the Hon'ble Minister prepared to make a personal enquiry into the matter complained of in this question?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Well, Sir, I have made an enquiry and I prefer to believe the version of the Labour Commissioner and the Assistant Labour Commissioner to any hearsay rumour.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state of whom he made enquiries besides the Labour Commissioner and the Assistant Labour Commissioner against whom the complaints were made?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: As I say, I prefer to believe the version of the Labour Commissioner and the Assistant Labour Commissioner.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: In spite of the Hon'ble Minister preferring to believe the version of those against whom complaints have been made, did he in fairness make enquiries of any other persons who made the complaint and were aggrieved by it?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not know whether any person has been aggrieved except probably the questioner.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he will consider making personal enquiries of the persons alleged to have been aggrieved in this question?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I say again, I do not know whether any person has been aggrieved except probably the questioner himself.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: The Secretary of the Tramway Workers' Union and the questioner himself were aggrieved Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make enquiries of other persons who have been similarly aggrieved on other occasions?

Mr. SPEAKER: The second part of your question does not arise; the first part is alright

Harassment of one Babu Satyendra Kumar Basu and his father by police.

*79. **Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware—

(i) that Mr. Satyendra Kumar Basu of 20, Amherst Row, Calcutta, a released political prisoner, who has been released after the completion of his full term of imprisonment and without any conditions, is being harassed by the Sukea Street police by raising hue and cry before his residence every night;

(*ii*) that the aged father of Mr. Basu is being similarly harassed at his village home at Faridpur by the Intelligence Branch Department of Palong centre, district Faridpur, and especially by the Inspector of the said centre, and by his men;

(*iii*) that Mr. Basu made several representations to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Northern Division, regarding the conduct of the Sukea Street police; and

(*iv*) that the Deputy Commissioner of Police did not make any enquiries nor did he take any action in the matter?

(*b*) If the answers to (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) are in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of holding an enquiry into the matter?

(*c*) What action, if any, does he propose to take to assure the pursuit of peaceful normal avocations of life by released political prisoners?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) No.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) The Deputy Commissioner did make enquiries and took action accordingly.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) None.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Referring to answer "No" to my questions (*a*) (*i*) and (*a*) (*ii*), are the facts of harassment to the released political prisoner and his aged father denied, or is it a denial of the knowledge of the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No, the question of harassment is being denied. As regards the aged father, the C.I.D. Sub-Inspector has only seen him once or twice and that cannot be termed as harassment by any stretch of imagination. As regards the person himself the man was sentenced to 5 years' rigorous imprisonment for possession of revolvers and at his own request he is being watched by the police in case he is again suspected of political crime, and unnecessary harassment is being avoided.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether his request was to go and shout for him at midnight and early hours of the morning?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As far as this is concerned, I am looking into this and I think that as far as this particular

case is concerned where the question related to possession of a revolver and smuggling of weapons, there does not seem to be any necessity of waking him up at midnight to ascertain if he was in the house. As far as this particular case is concerned, instructions have already been issued that he should not be awakened at dead of night.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that Satyendra Kumar Basu is called at the thana very frequently and is made to wait at the thana for hours together and allowed to come out of the thana premises at midnight?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Stipends for poor Muslim students in colleges and high schools.

***80. Maulvi ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(*i*) that a very large number of poor Muslim students are compelled to discontinue their studies in schools and colleges owing to poverty; and

(*ii*) that the number of stipends in secondary schools and colleges are not adequate to meet the demands?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Additional provision has been made for stipends and scholarships tenable at colleges during the current year and it is proposed to include in next year's budget a stipend and scholarship scheme for high schools.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the said scheme for stipends and scholarships for High Schools has been included in the next year's budget?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: There is some money for 1940-41 and the scheme will be included.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the additional provision for stipends and scholarships does not seem to him to be extremely inadequate as compared with the urgent necessity?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Externment of one Dr. Monmohon Chatterjee under section 7(1) of Bengal Smuggling of Arms Act, 1934.

***81. Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware—

(*i*) that Dr. Monmohan Chatterjee, son of Nabo Chandra Chatterjee, of Haidchakis, police-station Fatikchari, district Chittagong, who was medical practitioner at 35, Watgunj Street, Kidderpore, Calcutta, was externed from notified area under section 7(*1*) of the Bengal Smuggling of Arms Act, 1934, on February, 1936, for a period of 20 years;

(*ii*) that said Monmohan Chatterjee is a married man and is the only earning member of a family consisting of his younger brother who is still a student, his wife, 3 minor children, old and widowed mother, 2 widowed sisters and a minor niece;

(*iii*) that after his externment from Calcutta, he first chose Feni as venue of his practice and then shifted himself to Akyab where he is at present residing;

(*iv*) that after his expulsion from Calcutta he was once arrested and prosecuted on a charge of not giving intimation to police-station of his intended departure from Feni;

(*v*) that he was honourably acquitted from the charge by the Court;

(*vi*) that at Akyab he was again arrested and prosecuted for illegal possession of an unlicensed firearm and live cartridges;

(*vii*) that the Court acquitted him again from the charge;

(*viii*) that being compelled to leave the place of his business at Calcutta where he strenuously built up his practice for more than 12 years and being repeatedly harassed by police at Akyab he has been put to difficulties to earn even his livelihood; and

(*ix*) that he is living in a very stranded condition with his family?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, does the Hon'ble Minister contemplate the removal of the order of externment or modification of the order enabling him to reside at his native district of Chittagong?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*), (*iii*) to (*vii*) Yes.

(*ii*) He is a married man but I have no information regarding his family or dependants.

(*viii*) and (*ix*) I have no information.

(*b*) No.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Having compelled Dr. Monmohan Chatterjee to live in Burma, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to make enquiries as to how the members of his family are maintaining themselves?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I am sorry, Sir, that the honourable member has not read the answers properly. Government have never compelled him to go to Burma He was only externed from Calcutta and Chittagong. That is all.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Having externed him from Calcutta where he used to practise for 12 years for his living and also from Chittagong where he went to make a living by practice, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to find out how he and his dependants are maintaining themselves?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I think Dr. Chatterjee did not go to Chittagong, but I think he started practice in Noakhali and he went from Noakhali of his own accord to Burma.

Proceedings drawn against industrial workers during 1938-39.

***82. Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of proceedings drawn by the police against the industrial workers of Bengal under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, during the official year 1938-39; and

(*ii*) in how many cases were binding orders passed by the Court?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(i) that in regard to the proceedings under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, drawn against the 11 workers of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation this year, the complainants were all members of a rival union; and

(ii) that this rival union is controlled by the Bengal National Chamber of Labour?

(c) Is it a fact that as is evident from the Court proceedings no enquiries were made by the then officer-in-charge of Cossipore police-station before drawing the proceedings except in the case of one in which after enquiry the police did not proceed with?

(d) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister been drawn to the presidential address of the Mayor of Calcutta to the workers of Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation held on the 23rd June, 1939, in Albert Hall making certain allegations against the said officer-in-charge of the Cossipore police-station?

(e) Is it a fact that resolutions were passed by the workers drawing the attention of the Government and urging the transfer of the said officer?

(f) If the answers to (d) and (e) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken in the matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (a) (i) I am informed that there were 6 cases in Calcutta; district figures are not available.

(ii) Three cases. Two other cases were dropped on the accused persons giving undertaking that they would not create any further trouble.

(b), (d) to (f) Government have no information.

(c) I am informed that this is not so.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: With reference to answer (b) (i), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the evidence which the Officer Commanding, Police Station, Cossipore, gave before the Police Court at Sealdah he said that there were two rival Unions at Cossipore and that the complainant and the accused were members of those Unions?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: I submit, Sir, it does. The Hon'ble Minister says with reference to question (*b*) (*i*), viz., "that in regard to the proceedings under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, drawn against the 11 workers of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation this year, etc.", that Government have no information, in his answers (*b*), (*d*) to (*f*). The fact is that the evidence which the Officer Commanding, Cossipore Police Station, gave was given before the Police Court at Sealdah where the case was going on and where the proceedings under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, were referred to.

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. You can ask him whether he has gone through those proceedings.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has gone through these proceedings?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, Sir, I have not.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: On a question of privilege, Sir. When definite mention has been made of these proceedings, was it not the duty of the Hon'ble Minister to go through those proceedings?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: With reference to answer (*e*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether copies of the resolutions were sent to the Hon'ble Minister himself, the Labour Commissioner and the Assistant Labour Commissioner? Did he get them?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, Sir. I do not remember receiving any.

Recognition of certain primary schools in Kushtia subdivision.

***83. Babu LAKSHMI NARAYAN BISWAS:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(*i*) that the Sub-Inspector of Schools of the Kushtia subdivision, district Nadia, inspected the upper primary schools of Houshpur, Jothpara and Ajudia and the lower primary school of Kamardanga of the same subdivision; and

(ii) that he recorded in the Visit Books of the said schools that there were sufficient number of Scheduled Caste students and qualified teachers in them?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when these schools are likely to be recognised and aided?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (a) Yes.

(b) All the schools have been recognised and aided except the Ajudia Primary School the location of which was disapproved by the Site Selection Committee.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the village Ajudia is thickly populated by the backward Scheduled Caste people consisting of more than 150 houses and the local people are feeling the necessity of a primary school there?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have already answered that the location was disapproved by the Site Selection Committee; I have not said anything else.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the school has been disapproved? What are the reasons?

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you satisfied that the Site Selection Committee is a Government Committee or a Committee of the School Board?

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: It is a Committee of the School Board.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then that question does not arise.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: In consideration of the backwardness in education of the Scheduled Castes will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to direct the Site Selection Committee——

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that amongst all the schools this is the only school having the highest number of Scheduled Caste boys and managed by the Scheduled Caste people?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Allegation against the officer-in-charge of Nalitabari police-station in Mymensingh.

*84. **Mr. BIRENDRA KISHORE RAY CHAUDHURY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the officer-in-charge of the police-station at Nalitabari in the district of Mymensingh is indiscriminately calling the people to the thana for recording their relatives; and

(*ii*) that there exists a feeling amongst the people of the locality over this action of his?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this action of his has the approval of the higher authority?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) No; 13 people, in respect of whom history sheets were being opened, were called.

(*ii*) The local people were on the whole pleased that action was being taken against this gang.

(*b*) Does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Illness of a political prisoner Babu Purnananda Das Gupta at Alipore Central Jail.

67. **Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that political prisoner Babu Purnananda Das Gupta is lying ill in the Alipore Central Jail in a precarious condition;

(*ii*) that for the last four months he had to be kept on liquid diet;

(*iii*) that his ailment is mainly due to an acute stage of bleeding piles which requires immediate surgical operation;

(*iv*) that last year he was sent to the Medical College Hospital for operation but was sent back to jail suddenly on police intervention without being operated upon; and

(*v*) that the present precarious condition of his health is mainly due to his not being operated upon timely?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of his immediate transfer to the Medical College Hospital for operation?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) and (*b*) His condition is not considered precarious. He is at present an indoor patient of the Medical College Hospital.

(*ii*) Yes. He suffers from chronic indigestion and inability to digest any kind of solid food.

(*iii*) The latest medical opinion is that he has got three piles and requires operation.

(*iv*) In November, 1938, he was admitted to the Medical College Hospital for an operation but as operative treatment was then contradicted he was sent back to jail.

(*v*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Is it a fact that although Purnananda Das Gupta like other political prisoners is entitled to write letters to his relatives, he is not allowed to write about his illness?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I would refer the honourable member to the Jail Code. I do not carry the Jail Code in my hand.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Is it known to the Hon'ble Minister that Purnananda Das Gupta wrote a letter to his elder brother at Dacca on 10th December last, the letter being duly censored and passed by the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Bengal, on the 13th December—a letter in which Purnananda complained that some time back he was taken to the Medical College Hospitals for treatment, but he could not get treatment as the police intervened?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The honourable member's information is absolutely incorrect. The police did not intervene, and the answer given is absolutely correct. And it was at that time that he was medically advised that it was not a fit case for operation. He was sent to the Jail Hospital, and the Medical Officer in charge of the jail was not satisfied with that opinion. He sent him back to the Medical College and had him examined by another doctor and very likely he is going to be operated upon to-morrow.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: But, Sir, I have a letter from him making a definite complaint in this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: But the Hon'ble Minister has given his reply and in any case the operation is going to be held to-morrow.

Consulting local M.L.As. in the matter of nominating members to Debt Settlement Boards.

68. Mr. DHANANJOY ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state whether the local M.L.As. are consulted at the time of sending proposals for nominations to Debt Settlement Boards?

(*b*) If so, who are the M.L.As. so consulted?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT and RURAL INDEBTEDNESS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick): (*a*) Officers have been instructed to consider any suggestions made in this behalf by representative non-officials including members of the Legislature.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Sir, with reference to answer (*b*) and (*c*), namely, that it does not arise. I submit, Sir, that it does arise. The question is whether M.L.As. are consulted. The second question is, if so, who are the M.L.As. so consulted. But in answer to all these, the Hon'ble Minister says that (*b*) and (*c*) do not arise. I do not know, Sir, whether he has understood this question or even understood his own answer. So, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the honourable member for Bagerhat was consulted in the matter of nomination to the Debt Settlement Boards in the subdivision of Bagerhat?

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, it is a separate question.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: I submit, Sir, that this is a general question, but if the Hon'ble Minister cannot answer it offhand, let him ask for notice.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Put a straight question.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: May I enquire whether the Hon'ble Minister is prepared to give a comprehensive list of the members of the Legislature who have been already consulted in the matter of nomination to the Debt Settlement Boards?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Sir, I have already given the answer in (*a*), where I have indicated that whenever suggestions have been made by members of the Legislature they have been considered; but it is difficult to give a list of members who have been consulted.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question was whether they had been consulted, and your answer was that if they gave suggestions then they were considered.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Even that, Sir, is a supplementary answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that your answer is that they are not ordinarily consulted, but that only if they give the suggestions are they considered.

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Yes, Sir, that is so.

Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: But the fact on the other hand is that the suggestions are not considered.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state the instances in which suggestions as stated in answer (*a*) have been considered?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state if the Government is considering the desirability of issuing instructions as have been mentioned in answer (*a*) to the effect that all M.L.As. irrespective of their party labels should be consulted before nominations are made to the Debt Settlement Boards?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I do not think so.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My question was whether Government is considering the desirability of issuing instructions for consultation?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: I have said just now that I do not consider it necessary as the instructions are already there.

Protection of Mutwallis and Wakf estates.

69. Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Does the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department contemplate amendment of section 70 of the Bengal Wakf Act, 1934, to provide additional safeguards for the protection of Mutwallis and the *wakf* estates?

(*b*) If so, when?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The matter is under consideration.

Amendment of Bengal Wakf Act, 1934.

70. Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to introduce any Bill to amend the present Wakf Act of 1934?

(*b*) If so, when is the Bill likely to be introduced in the Assembly?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) I hope to introduce a Bill shortly.

Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is examining the provisions of the several amending Bills introduced by members of this House?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Silting up of the Kumar and certain rivers in Faridpur.

71. Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(*i*) that the Chandana, Kumar and Palong-Naria rivers in the district of Faridpur have almost silted up and have become unnavigable during the winter season;

(*ii*) that owing to the silting up of the Lower Kumar, there has been a loss of an annual income of a few lakhs from the toll-collection on the *Bil* route;

(*iii*) that owing to the silting up of the said rivers, communications by steamers and boats in many parts of the district of Faridpur have become impossible; and

(*iv*) that the lock and sluice gates put up on the mouths of several canals falling into the Lower Kumar have become useless for the purpose of protecting the Lower Kumar from being silted up?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*)(*iv*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for maintaining those gates?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that those gates now—

(*i*) affect agriculture, health and communication of the public concerned; and

(*ii*) cause a recurring loss of Government revenue?

(*d*) Has the Hon'ble Minister's Department prepared any schemes for dredging the abovementioned rivers or for resuscitating all or any of the abovementioned rivers?

(*e*) If so, when do the Government propose to undertake to implement those schemes?

(*f*) Is it the decision of the Local Government not to make any attempt to improve the steamer and boat communications in the district of Faridpur?

(*g*) Are the Provincial Government proposing to move the Government of India to open new railway lines to remove the difficulties of communication of that district?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) (*i*) and (*iii*) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the replies which I gave to parts (*b*) (*i*) and (*ii*) and (*d*) (*iii*) of his starred question No. 503A and to part (*a*) of his unstarred question No. 44 on the 8th April, 1938, and the 6th March, 1939, respectively.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iv*) and (*b*) The lock and sluice gates are still useful in maintaining a better flow and retarding siltation.

(*c*) (*i*) I am informed that they do not affect agriculture and public health and do not cause any considerable interference to boat traffic.

(*ii*) No.

(*d*) to (*f*) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the replies which I gave on the 8th April, 1938, to parts (*c*) and (*e*) to (*g*) of his starred question No. 503A.

(*g*) No. The attention of the honourable member is invited to the reply which I gave on the 22nd February, 1939, to part (*c*) of his unstarred question No. 30.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the mouths of the canals which fall into the Lower Kumar and over which sluice gates have been put up have been silted up?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: That is the usual effect of the sluices for which they are discouraged by experts.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the gates are kept closed for a long period in the year and at least during the time of the first rains?

Mr. SPEAKER: Why not discuss this matter in your Budget speech or during the voting on demands?

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, I may not get an opportunity.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then give others a chance.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: I do not know how many minutes each member will get for discussing Irrigation.

Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether it is not a fact that at the time of cultivation these canals which used to supply water previously are not supplying water for the purpose of cultivation?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I do not think that these canals are dried up completely, although some of them have been deteriorated.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what kind of utility is there for keeping these gates?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I would refer the honourable member to my reply (*b*).

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: The reply says that they are useful in maintaining a better flow and retarding siltation. Will he therefore please state why, in spite of the gates being there, the Lower Kumar is being more and more silted up?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I admit that the sluice and locks have not been as successful as it was hoped they would be when they were constructed.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that, not to speak of steamers, even boats are not able to pass over the Lower Kumar at several parts?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Yes, Sir: I am aware of the difficulty of navigation in that part of the river.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether Government propose to dredge the Lower Kumar this year?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, dredging is not considered to be the remedy but only a means for the improvement of a canal. Government, however, is considering how a permanent improvement can be effected and as soon as the investigation is completed, a scheme will be prepared.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether Government had prepared a scheme for resuscitating the Chandana river and the Lower Kumar?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, the hydraulic investigation of the Chandana river system has been completed and the contour survey which commenced in January last is expected to be completed by the end of April this year. After the data are collected the engineers of Government will be in a position to prepare a scheme.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether he is aware that owing to the silting up of the rivers in one district many parts which were never visited by malaria now get malaria-stricken?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: I submit, Sir, it does arise, as per answer (*c*) (*i*). However, Sir, will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether in view of the fact that public health has already deteriorated owing to the silting up of the river Government should not now reconsider the question of recommending to the Government of India the establishment of a railway for the purpose of communication within that district?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question also does not arise.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, I would draw your attention to the answer to (*c*) (*ii*) where the answer is "no". The basis of this answer "no" was an answer which he gave to a question of mine in February, 1939, that the Public Health Department reported that the construction of a railway would affect the health of the locality. My submission is that the health of the locality has already been affected by the silting up of the river. Will the Hon'ble Minister, therefore, be pleased to reconsider whether the Government of Bengal should not recommend to the Government of India for the construction of a railway?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I may remind my honourable friend that the question of the construction of the railway was considered or rather recommended by the old Government once in 1914 and again in 1926, but this was turned down by the Government of India on the ground of the unremunerative character of the scheme.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the Lower Kumar Scheme which was inaugurated about 13 years back has been a complete failure in spite of large sums of money being spent on the same?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I have already intimated that it has not been a success to the extent to which it was expected.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What was the amount of money spent so far?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I want notice.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the local people are opposed to the Madaripur Bhil Scheme?

Mr. SPEAKER: Don't repeat and don't bring West Bengal into your district.

Additional Day for General Discussion of the Budget.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have just heard that Government are prepared to give an additional day for the discussion of the Budget. The only day that is available is to-morrow. Unfortunately I shall not be able to come. But, I hope, the House will pardon me, because I have already made heavy engagements to-morrow from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and I may be absent. In any case the House will sit to-morrow from 11 a.m.

For the time being the House stands adjourned for 20 minutes for prayer.

(The House was adjourned for 20 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has referred to the prevalence of war conditions in Europe. We do not know, Sir, what the possible effects of this war will be—whether they will be to the detriment or to the welfare of the future of India. But the fact remains that we are hoping for better times and better days. Sir, so far as this Budget is concerned our friend the Finance Minister has said that we have got temporary benefits out of the effects of this war. Sir, I will not trouble the House by mentioning the different items included in the statement that has been put before us by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. Sir, I am glad that you yourself put forward some remarks so far as the administration of the present Ministry is concerned. In every department the very same thing is happening to-day. What is happening to you in your department, the very same thing is happening in other departments also.

Sir, I have before me one big book which is nicely printed and possibly a large amount of money has been spent by Government on this book which goes by the name of "Two Years of Provincial Autonomy in Bengal." It will be found in this book that the programme on behalf of the Ministry has been published and I will, for the edification

of the House, read out the items that have been placed before the country by the Ministry, and let us analyse how far the Ministry has been able to implement the programme set forth therein.

Sir, we all know that when this programme was enunciated, we all had a hand in it. We really hoped to build up a happier Bengal, a newer Bengal, a fresher Bengal in place of a Bengal which is, as the Hon'ble Finance Minister has mentioned in his Budget speech, composed of ill-clad, ill-fed and half-clad people. We hoped that by implementing the programme set before the country, these people would have better days.

Let me cite the items contained in the programme.

The first item of the programme is in connection with the Permanent Settlement. The second item is the amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act. The third is the amendment of the Public Demands Recovery Act. The fourth is to devise ways and means of freeing the cultivators from the crushing burden of indebtedness. The fifth is the amendment of the Co-operative Societies Act so as to make it really conducive to the economic advancement of the people. The sixth is the immediate introduction of free and compulsory primary education without taxation of the poor who are unable to bear the burden. The seventh is the reduction in the cost of administration. The eighth is to control the price of jute through (*a*) limitation of production, (*b*) marketing boards, and (*c*) other suitable measures. The ninth is the resuscitation of dead and dying rivers and *khals* through local manual labour. The tenth is to undertake measures of public health and rural sanitation. The eleventh is the repeal of tobacco tax and taxes on the necessities of life. The twelfth is the repeal of repressive laws and release of political prisoners and detenus, consistent with public safety. The thirteenth is to devise ways and means for solving the unemployment problem. The fourteenth is the amendment of the Calcutta University Act and the establishment of a Board of Secondary Education in Bengal. The fifteenth is the amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act.

Now, Sir, let us consider the different items. So far as the cost of administration is concerned, if this Ministry had any brains, if they had any ideology, if they had any intention and real desire to benefit the people of this province, the first thing they should have done would have been to reduce the cost of administration. Everywhere it is done. The Finance Minister has produced here a deficit Budget. The Hon'ble Finance Minister's position is that of a man preparing a Budget of Rs. 200 who has got only Rs. 40 with him. Why not curtail your own expenditure? If you really want to reconstruct Bengal, you must first plan for such reconstruction and economic development and place the same before the country. The country will not then lag behind to give the Ministry the warmest support for expenditure to carry out the plan. Instead of that, you

roam about the country and foment all sorts of communal troubles by putting forward all sorts of communal ideas and slogans, such as, "Islam is in danger" and so on. That will not carry you through. Unfortunately many such things were said yesterday. One of our friends who does not belong to Bengal, who belongs to a remote corner of India, always comes to remind us who are on this side of this House that Islam is in danger, as if the monopoly of Islam is in the pocket of some gentleman either of this province or of that province. We belong to Bengal and we claim to know Bengal better than anyone hailing from other provinces. You may go to Sind and advise your Alla Bux Ministry to do anything, but we do not want the recurrence of Sukkur tragedy here——

Mr. SPEAKER: You are to address the Chair.

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Sir, through you I am addressing the House.

Sir, I may at the outset draw the attention not only of the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy, the present Finance Minister and who is also in charge of two other portfolios, but also of the other Ministers. I am very sorry, the Hon'ble Chief Minister is not here as he is the man who has really to carry the burden of responsibility for carrying on the administration and all blame that will attach to the Government will be primarily his. Therefore, Sir, I would have been very glad if he had been here. We all know that he promised many things. He promised not only *dal bhat* to the poor peasants of the province, but he promised them primary education which falls within his own portfolio. It is often said by the other side that this side of the House offer you obstruction and criticise the action of the Ministry in season and out of season. I will say with all humility that if they bring forward proposals for ameliorating the condition of the masses —measures which will really be conducive to the interests of the masses —believe me, we will not put any obstruction in their way. But what do we find? They have not even to-day any planned constructive scheme or any planned economy.

My friend, the Hon'able Finance Minister, was in charge of Rural Reconstruction also. But I doubt very much if my friend knows how *dhan gatch* grows or whether planks are made from *dhan gatch*. I do not know whether he knows all these things. (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Do you know how this is done?) Yes, I know quite well.

Sir, we are waiting to hear from the Hon'ble Finance Minister his words of wisdom when he will sum up the debate and reply to the various speeches. Sir, I am really speaking in all seriousness. The Coalition Government is running the administration of this province

and we also know that if this Ministry were really serious, they could do a lot for improving the condition of the masses. In the beginning they started well and probably, at that time, they wanted to catch the imagination of the people. Therefore, they began quite all right. But possibly not knowing what shape things will take hereafter or what turn events will take in future, all sorts of things are now being put in in the administration. I can assure the Ministry that if they take up planned schemes for the real benefit of the masses, certainly this side of the House will not put any obstruction in their way. The Ministry will perhaps put forward the plea that they have advanced Muslim education and Muslim culture and all sorts of things. But when the actual details are placed before us we find that no real benefit to the Muslims has been done. So far as the interests of the masses are concerned, the question of Muslims or Hindus does not arise. I may take for example the question of primary education. If the Ministry had taken upon themselves the introduction of free compulsory primary education, taxation proposals might have been all right. But I do not understand why they should rush the legislation through and not take upon themselves the consequence if they knew that they could not carry the scheme through. Although the Act was passed about 8 or 9 years back, even to-day the primary education scheme is a dead letter. Now the proposals are made and possibly before the next elections are held they will say that it took five years for them to think in their silence.

Nowadays the Home Minister is obsessed with the bogey of communism. Everywhere he sees red. Externment orders are being issued and possibly day after to-morrow externment orders will be issued by him on some persons who stand for the interests of the masses and stand in their way.

Sir, apart from the fact that this is a deficit Budget, a few grants here and there, a few grants for a madrasah, a few grants for a school, another grant to another institution, these do not redound to the credit of the administration, and they will not benefit the people at large. If you really mean any benefit to the people, take some constructive scheme, whether in the shape of rural reconstruction or resuscitation of the dead and dying rivers which is Maharaja Sahib's portfolio, or in the shape of industrial scheme. What has been done so far as the industries are concerned? Sir, I am not criticising the Ministry for the sake of criticism. I am simply asking the Ministry in all humility as to what they have done for the masses.

We find that the Budget which has been produced before us has been presented in the old bureaucratic way. When I was in the old Council I had some experience in which these things used to be done, and the same style is being followed even now. In countries whether

in Russia or in Germany, Totalitarian States or Dictatorial Governments, you will find that Governments put forward schemes and ask the Legislature to support the schemes. If the Legislature refuses to support those schemes, then the question arises as to what the Government should do. The situation here in this province was very favourable to this Ministry. Really, Sir, this Ministry could have done great things. My friend Mr. Suhrawardy in the last portion of his Budget speech says that, so far as the beneficent activities are concerned, so far as rural reconstruction scheme is concerned "to all those who know and deplore the conditions in which the ill-educated, ill-housed, ill-fed and malaria-stricken sons of Bengal live this year's Budget must be as great a disappointment as it is to me personally." This sounds quite all right. But what has been done to improve the condition of agriculture?

(At this stage the member reached his time-limit.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, your time is up.

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: One minute more, Sir.

I will only say, Sir, that the Budget that has been produced before us, the statement that has been read before us, is really very disappointing and hereafter we do not know what other things the Ministry will produce before us. Let us hope that under happier conditions, under conditions which will come hereafter, we will be able to create a new, a happier and a better Bengal

Mr. R. M. SASSOON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Finance Minister on his comprehensive but modest survey of the financial structure of this province, I must congratulate him on the versatility he has shown ever since he has been a Minister. He has held more portfolios than any of his colleagues and to step so suddenly into the realm of finance was an unenviable task, made all the more difficult, as he succeeded a predecessor whose reputation in that subject was accepted by most of us here. At the outset I propose to make it clear that I do not view the future with as much gloom as Mr. Suhrawardy. On the contrary, I would draw the attention of this House to the first few lines of the same published report of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank quoted by him in his speech. They said, "On the whole the economic outlook at the end of 1939 appeared to be brighter than at any time during the past ten years." In my humble opinion I see every reason for a continuance of that improvement because the fundamental position of Indian Industry to-day remains extremely satisfactory more especially as it is in a position to derive

a maximum advantage of war conditions. The war has led to a large demand for a number of India's primary products, and it has resulted in a greatly enhanced price for these products.

Turning to the Budget, the figures put before us show an expected deficit on the working for 1940-41 of 57 lakhs on Revenue as against a revised estimate of 14 lakhs deficit for 1939-40. As regards this deficit, we would urge Government to use their utmost endeavours in the collection of their dues so that at least the Revenue Budget of 1939-40 will be made to balance. Since the new constitution the Provincial Government has conducted its own banking operations and the introduction of the Debt Deposit Section in which these are shown has not unnaturally been a source of some puzzlement on occasions to members of the House There now appears to be a danger that the operations of Government on that side of the accounts may prove to have repercussions on the ordinary Revenue and Expenditure Budget with which we are all familiar This arises because the Debt Deposit operations affect our ways and means position In this connection, under the heading of Loans and Advances by the Government, we notice that loans have continually increased in the last two years, and while Government expect to recover a portion of these loans this year, we would emphasise that the depletion of the financial resources of the province are mainly due to these loans and not to the losses incurred in Revenue. Examination of the figures show that last year there was a Revenue surplus of one thousand rupees and the year before one crore seventeen lakhs. Therefore, since the new Constitution there has been no deficit on Revenue Account We consider in consequence that the money required should be more correctly obtained by provincial borrowing and not by recourse to taxation.

In the Budget speech a year ago a provincial loan of rupees one crore was foreshadowed as a provision against this very dangerous depletion of balances and we notice that some time before the outbreak of hostilities it was decided not to resort to this loan. We wonder if the Finance Minister has since had cause to regret the decision Although the figures show that there is an appreciable decline in receipts from jute, we consider it is largely as a result of the difficult shipping position. Large stocks lying at the godowns of mills awaiting shipment will bear this out. With an improvement in shipping facilities during the current year, it is not impossible that the ultimate figures may show a considerable improvement.

We notice that provision has been made for an increase in the number of Debt Conciliation Boards as also for rewards to selected members in recognition of their services. We should like to draw Government's attention to the fact that while we have always considered that the establishment of these Boards was a very good scheme as was originally intended, opinion has it that they have in some instances

been wrongly used. As a consequence the results of this misuse a now being felt and credit for the agriculturist is slowly drying up.

We are pleased that there is an improvement of 7 lakhs under Lan Revenue proper. This is one of the province's biggest single sourc of income and with higher prices for agricultural products, better co lections are sure to result. There is always a danger that these collec tions may come to be affected by relaxation of the procedure of ren recovery and we trust that the Government will maintain its clos watch on the situation.

That they are not indifferent to the requirements of primary an other phases of education is made clear by the large increase in expendi ture under this head Education in India offers a most strikin paradox. On the one hand we have by far the greater majority o the population sunk deep in illiteracy. And, on the other, we hav the cities and towns overflowing with graduates, few of whom can b employed. We therefore welcome the special provisions under th heading of Agriculture and we feel that much can be done by the youn men of the educated middle-classes who flock to the big cities in searc of employment They would be doing a valiant service to the provinc and to themselves if they would return to their villages and help t introduce higher standards of education, agriculture and social lif generally. This is now being successfully tried in Hyderabad and i has the full support of His Exalted Highness the Nizam. Th success of these young men is a matter merely of perseverence and self denial, and it would in a measure help to solve the unemploymen problem of this province.

We are glad to notice the progress that is being made under th heading of Co-operative Credit and that there has been an increase i the appointment of auditors to this department We hope that separate department for auditing Co-operative Societies and Lan Mortgage Banks is being set up under the guidance of the Reserv Bank of India as was contemplated.

It is perhaps as well to take this opportunity to remind the Hous that the long session last year cost the province over 2 lakhs and w therefore welcome the report recently issued by the Director of Publi Information which shows the ratio of communal appointments abou which much time in the House has been wasted and which represent a good proportion of the questions that are asked by members

I am personally pleased to see that the Association for the Preven tion of Blindness continues to be recognised and that they are bein given a further grant to increase the number of their travelling dis pensaries. Much good work is being done by this Association in th province, and I am aware that two of their dispensaries alone hav treated nearly 80,000 cases since they commenced work.

Finally, while we applaud the steps that have been taken for securing the growers of jute an adequate price for their produce, we must deplore any attempt to force prices to uneconomic levels. It is unwise for Government to see only the cultivator's point of view, and I would recommend to them the old saying—

"When doing good do it little by little
When you wish to do evil you do it all at once."

Therefore to allow the cultivator to get used to levels which are not justified by the laws of supply and demand is to encourage him to live in a fool's paradise. A little quiet calm deliberation and forethought will show that there is both wisdom and strength in moderation. A thing may look specious in theory and yet be ruinous in practice. In addition, it is important that the cultivator whose meagre resources have for years been depleted should be encouraged in every way to put by as much as he can of his present earnings and thus strengthen his powers of future resistance. It is not enough merely to hope that he will not fritter his windfall away—he should be assisted in this important direction. It would be as well to remember that to ameliorate poverty may be necessary, but we know that just as essential are the maintenance of such qualities as individual ability to save.

Maharajkumar UDAY CHAND MAHTAB: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is always difficult to know as to what constructive suggestions may be given on an occasion like this. Moreover, as this is a deficit Budget for the second year in succession, one is tempted to make scathing criticisms, but I shall refrain from doing so.

It would be unsportsmanlike not to congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister on this his first Budget for his very frank Budget statement. But probably due to the present international situation it was not possible for Government to paint a rosier picture for the improvement of the condition—to quote the Hon'ble the Finance Minister's own words—of the ill-educated, ill-housed, ill-fed, malaria-stricken sons of Bengal.

As many speakers before me have spoken in detail on the exact amount of deficit, I shall not go into details; but I am glad to find that the savings under General Administration were mainly due to smaller expenditure on legislative bodies and under Police and Administration of Justice. I would only like to make one observation while we are on the question of the effect of war on certain main sources of revenue in this province and that is, that in meeting some of the extraordinary charges, *e.g.*, air raid precautions, special police, etc., the more important items of the Budget, namely, the sums allotted for the health, welfare and education of the rural areas are not neglected.

Looking through the Irrigation Budget it is gratifying to note that amongst the various schemes mentioned by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister in his statement there is a provision for the improvement of the Aurora Khal in the Hooghly district which, I am sure, if taken up, will no doubt improve the general condition of the cultivators in a large tract.

It would not be out of place to mention here about the Eden Canal Rates. The rate charged in the Eden Canal Area under the Irrigation Act is over Rs. 3-8 an acre, whereas Rs. 2-9 per acre has been fixed for the Damodar Canal Area under the Development Act.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It is compulsory.

Maharajkumar UDAY CHAND MAHTAB: Considering the imperfect supply of water in the Eden Canal the rate is too high and requires revision. Government should try to anticipate public agitation in this case so as not to allow a difficult situation to develop as it happened in the case of the Damodar Canal Area. Practically all the districts of the Burdwan Division except Howrah suffer more or less from drought. The districts which suffer the most and almost every second or third year are Bankura and Birbhum. Government have three irrigation projects under consideration for this area, viz., the More Scheme for Birbhum, the Darakeswar Scheme for Bankura and the Hooghly-Howrah Scheme for the districts of Burdwan, Hooghly and Howrah. I regret to find that no provision has been made for any of these schemes in the Budget. I hope that Government will soon come up for a supplementary demand for at least one of these schemes. They are of vital importance to the people of a large portion of West Bengal.

Under Medical Expenses, I am glad to find that Government proposes to make an annual grant of Rs. 10,000 to the Jabadpur Tuberculosis Hospital. This amount, although not adequate for the purpose of fighting this dreaded disease in this province, is no doubt a great help to the Association, and I would be glad if it would be possible for Government when renewing this grant to pay a little more to this Association which is doing excellent work in this province.

On the whole, I must admit that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister in his Budget has provided a little more for nation-building purposes than was done last year, and this is no doubt a move in the right direction.

The only note of warning I would like to give would be with regard to the imposition of fresh taxation. I quite agree with the Leader of the European Group when he says that when considering the question of imposing fresh taxation Government should consider the

burden of taxes that are already levied on people living in Urban areas. If there is to be taxation, it should be done in such a way that it does not affect those who are already groaning under its burden, and it should be done on a graduated scale. Any sort of responsible Government should think of fresh taxation only when they have found that even by the enforcement of the strictest economy in all administrative departments it is not possible to balance the Budget, and I hope that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister will think of all the possible heads in the Budget where economy can be effected and after tapping those heads, then and then only think of introducing any fresh taxation.

Before I conclude, I would like to speak about Rural Credit. By the establishment of Debt Settlement Boards and the prospect of the Money-lenders Bill soon becoming an Act, Rural Credit in the province has completely dried up, making it almost impossible for the agriculturists to carry on agricultural operations or to find money for urgent and unavoidable requirements. Government, I hope, will introduce some measure in order to provide short-term credit facilities to the agriculturists. Happiness and prosperity of the people in the rural areas will depend much on the solution of the credit problem.

While appreciating what the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has been able to do this year, I trust that he will be able in future to follow up the hopes expressed by him in the concluding part of his Budget statement.

Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, I feel considerable hesitation in offering my criticism upon the Budget as until lately I was the butt of all criticisms and not a critic myself. But in a democratic and parliamentary Government such change from the criticised to the critic is not unusual, because the Government of to-day may be the Opposition of to-morrow. But, Sir, knowing as I do the difficulties under which the present Government work, whatever criticism I may offer will not be offered in a light or captious mood. As a matter of fact, I know the embarrassments, the limitations and handicaps as well as the strength of the Government. Generally, the Finance Minister becomes the target of all attacks, but, Sir, I know from experience what little influence he can exercise in the formulation of the Budget. The schemes have to be drawn up and the initiative taken by the departments concerned, so far as any omission of good nation building scheme is concerned, the Finance Minister is not responsible. Then also about demands for grants and the programme for expenditure, and what items should find a place in the Budget and what items should be omitted, and what items will get precedence—these are all settled by the Cabinet as a whole. And in those matters the duty of the Finance Minister of the day is only to tender advice. In these circumstances

I have every sympathy with my erstwhile colleague in the Cabinet, the present Finance Minister, and I also appreciate that he had to race against time and work under the shadow of a great bereavement for which he has my sincere sympathy and condolence.

Sir, the difficulties of Government, as I have referred to before, are these. Even, if Government as a whole decide to pay a certain amount to a certain institution and even if this Budget demand has been passed by this House, the party in power can stop it afterwards. Sir, I shall give one instance. The Leader of the Opposition the other day referred to the omission of a grant to the institution Biswavarati from this year's Budget. It was not only an omission from this year's Budget, but the grant which was voted last year by this House had not yet been paid to that institution, the Finance Minister cannot do anything there; it was withheld by the Hon'ble Miniser in charge on a direction from the party in power. Not only has the Biswavarati not got it, but I have searched in vain for a grant to Sriniketan, that Rural Reconstruction Centre, for whose maintenance even a generous foreigner pays about Rs 40,000 a year. Because I could include grants for these world-famed institutions as Finance Minister I had got congratulations not only from people outside Bengal but even from people outside India, still the money was not paid.

I now come to the Budget statement of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister.

Sir, the Hon'ble Minister in his speech has sought to establish certain propositions which, I am afraid, are based on some confusion of thought. Any steps that may be decided upon in the absence of clear thinking are likely to mislead and miscarry. The Hon'ble Finance Minister says that at the time of war we have at least the semblance of prosperity and that a slump after the war is inevitable. The Hon'ble Finance Minister intends to take advantage of this prosperity and place before the House in the near future proposals for new taxation to build up a reserve to lighten the severity of the slump by undertaking large-scale schemes of civil works, irrigation and drainage.

I am afraid that the forecast about the course of economic conditions particularly after the war which the Finance Minister has ventured, and the financial policy he has enunciated as appropriate to these conditions are based upon an inadequate appreciation of all relevant facts and also a sad confusion of thought which should be exposed to the full glare of open and intelligent criticism.

In the first place, is there any inevitability of a slmp following after the war? The experiences after the last Great War may be drawn upon in this connection; although they are not, for one significant

reason which I shall soon relate, quite comparable to conditions that we may expect after the present war, the history of post-war economic conditions shows that the period of war boom continued up to 1921 in full swing and a slight set back intervened after 1921, but that conditions revived again and prosperity continued till the cataclysm of 1929. The experience of the last war does not therefore point to the inevitability of any serious slump immediately after the war. There is another significant reason why the slump, if it should at all follow after the war, may be even less severe than the slight set back that was experienced about 2-3 years after the last war. It is this. The pre-1914 economic world was based essentially on free trade principles, while the post-war period, particularly since 1929, has been imbued with the spirit of economic nationalism. It is likely therefore that the turbulent waves of depression arising in one country may not strike with as much havoc now as they did after 1919 the shores of other countries. Further, we have also to remember that economic conditions which tend towards a boom under the stimulus given by war conditions are being carefully watched and controlled now so that the reaction after the war may also be expected to be less severe. Further, the cessation of hostilities will also coincide with a period of reconstruction on a vast scale in almost every country. This reconstruction work will be another potent factor in sustaining economic activities after the war. Considering all these facts, I am afraid I cannot share the Finance Minister's pessimism of the inevitability of a slump immediately after the war And even if a set back should follow, as it probably may after a cataclysm like the present war and some time after the cessation of hostilities, its intensity will in all probability not be very severe. And a Finance Minister should not be expected to take into account more than what is probable. An unduly pessimistic attitude, which should not be confused with a reasonably cautious approach, ill-befits his position. The alarm that has been raised and echoed in many official quarters about the inevitability of a serious slump after the war appears to be unfounded. Compared to economic conditions now, they are not likely to be appreciably worse off after the war. We in India may even fare somewhat better, as my friend Mr. Sassoon of the European Group has put it, if and when markets which are now closed to us are reopened to admit our commodities.

In the second place, to build up in times of prosperity a reserve, by imposition of taxes, against possible depression in the uncertain future is a proposition unknown in the canons of taxation. The Hon'ble Minister has, in doing so, propounded a new principle in public finance. The orthodox practice has been to resort to taxation for balancing the Budget. The recent tendency has been to attach

comparatively less importance to this kind of balancing in each individual year, and Budget deficits have been met by temporary loans on the expectation that prosperity in subsequent years would cover the deficit over a period. Never before has one heard of the necessity of providing in a Budget for the effects of a possible slump, even if this has to be done by starving desirable and essential expenditure and imposing fresh burdens on commerce and industry which they can probably ill-afford to shoulder. If a Slump Fund on the lines of a Famine Fund is at all intended to be created, it should be built up with funds, if any, that can be spared after meeting all necessary expenditure. Further, there is probably also be necessity of creating such a reserve. For it is well known that a period of depression is one of low interest rates. If the Government should be desirous of checking its intensity or combating it by means of public works expenditure, the necessary funds can be raised by a way of a loan. It is extremely difficult to find any rhyme or reason in the Finance Minister's proposal. It has nothing to commend itself except its novelty. But novelty as such should not be confused with either common-sense or sound financial principle. Let us leave aside this comprehensive and general consideration of the subject, and confine ourselves to Bengal in particular. What is the position that we find? Take Income-tax. We are here bound to obtain an increase after the termination of the war. As disclosed in the Railway Budget, Bengal would have got about Rs. 50 lakhs more during the Budget year if the Niemeyer Order-in-Council were in force. But apparently the Hon'ble Finance Minister knew that the Niemeyer Order was going to be changed and so he did not take an enhanced income-tax receipt into account in his Budget. Under the order that is coming, Rs. 4 crores 50 lakhs will be deducted from the provincial share of the income-tax. After the termination of the war, this amount will be released to the provinces and Bengal's share will be increased by Rs. 90 lakhs out of this. The position in regard to the Jute Export Duty is again bound to be better than in the Budget. If the Hon'ble Minister looks to the figures—post-war figures after the Great War of 1914—he will find that after the war, in the post-war period, the demand for jute increased to a considerable extent. One cannot help feeling therefore that the Hon'ble Finance Minister gives a false alarm when he speaks about the inevitability of a slump after the war. And to base his case for new taxation on this alarmist view of the future is really to give the case away. The Hon'ble Minister, I am afraid, raises yet another alarm and this is about the prospects of a deficit Budget with a deficit of Rs. 57 lakhs. This position I am certain will help him in controlling his finances against the inroad or the pressure of his party members, but this is economically not a sound proposition. A deficit may be useful inasmuch as it may be utilised as a check to

the constant requests for doles and grants from party members, but so far as the real budgetary position is concerned a deficit like this cannot serve to make it so very depressing. The opening balance looks somewhat slender because a large part of the reserves amounting to about 1 crore during the last two years have been used as loans to agriculturists, but as soon as those loans are realised—I am sure they will be realised very soon—the reserves would naturally be strengthened to that extent. New taxation could therefore be hardly considered necessary to cover this deficit and strengthen the reserves. So, under any circumstances either on the ground of deficit in the present Budget or his new theory that he will provide for a reserve for a slump season, his new taxation proposal is not at all justifiable. But by that I don't like to imply that there is no necessity for fresh taxation. But what I would deny is that there is any necessity for imposing fresh taxes either to provide against what the Hon'ble Minister considers an "inevitable slump" after the war or to cover any deficit in this Budget. Fresh taxation would be not only necessary but also justified to finance new schemes evolved for the purpose of mass amelioration. The Finance Minister should come forward with proposals for fresh taxation only after he has been satisfied that detailed schemes and programme for expenditure have been formulated and agreed upon and that the machinery for the execution of such scheme or programme is also ready. To agree to taxation without any proper scheme for which the funds so raised will be expended, would, I am afraid, result in a serious wastage of public money. It is a sad confession—and I do not intend to shirk my own responsibility in the matter, for as long as I was a member of the Government—that money on many occasions had to be spent haphazardly without the expenditure being a part of a settled plan. Care was also seldom taken to analyse the effect of expenditure, to ascertain whether a particular expenditure to be incurred was going actually to serve a more urgent purpose than others. In the nation-building departments it has usually been the practice to make grants as doles or grants to particular institutions, more often through the pressure of particular individuals and certainly not in pursuance of any well-conceived scheme of development. If, now, taxation is imposed without any plan and without a machinery for the utilisation of the funds, the proceeds of the taxes will again have to be given as doles through pressure or otherwise. Before imposition of fresh levies detailed clear-cut schemes are necessary. An idea is not a scheme. It is not enough to have a consciousness of our shortcomings in every walk of life. The idea must be given practical shape. Nobody would deny the stark reality of the extreme poverty of our masses. The necessity of ameliorating their economic and social conditions is a patent fact and universally recognised. But the crucial problem is: What are we going to do about it? What are

the plans? Are the plans practicable? And assuming they are, have we appropriate machinery to execute them? Only when all these conditions have been fulfilled, only then will the Government be justified in imposing fresh taxation to raise necessary funds.

How very unnecessary and innocuous it is to provide for expenditures without any well-conceived plans is writ large over the whole Budget. Honourable members have only to open pages of the Red Book at random to find that whenever lump grants have been voted, the moneys have not been fully or well spent. I may cite just a few instances.

A lump provision of Rs. 5 lakhs was made for Scheduled Caste Education in 1938-39. Government spent only Rs. 22,000 that year. In 1939-40 a provision of Rs. 3,03,000 was made of which Government spent only Rs. 1,93,000. Yet the Government profess their great solicitousness for Scheduled Caste interests. Government are equally anxious to eradicate malaria, but plead lack of funds. But the honourable members have only to look at page 107 of the last year's Red Book and page 111 of this year's Red Book to judge for themselves how far Government's solicitousness is genuine, and their excuse tenable. In 1938-39, this House sanctioned Rs. 2,20,000 for anti-malarial schemes, and Government spent only Rs. 67,000 that year. In 1939-40, the same provision of Rs. 2,20,000 was repeated but nothing has been spent. Similarly, this House sanctioned Rs. 30,000 for anti-tuberculosis survey in 1938-39, but nothing was spent. The same grant was repeated in 1939-40, and Government have spent only Rs. 14,000.

Rs. 1,50,000 was sanctioned in 1938-39 for reorganisation of rural public health units. Government spent only Rs. 10,000 that year and repeated the provision of the balance of Rs. 1,40,000 in the year 1939-40. But not a pie has been spent and the whole provision is being repeated for the next year (page 107 of last year's Red Book and page 101 of this year's Red Book).

For control of leprosy this House sanctioned Rs. 50,000 in 1938-39 but nothing was spent that year (last year's Red Book, page 106). The entire provision was repeated in 1939-40 and only Rs. 30,000 has been spent (Red Book, page 109).

What again have the Government done to solve the river problems of Bengal? Rs. 1,25,000 was sanctioned for the Waterways Board in 1937-38; nothing was spent. Rs. 2,50,000 was provided in the Budget for 1938-39 for the same purpose and again nothing was spent. The same provision was repeated in 1939-40 and again nothing has been spent. The provision disappears form the next year's Budget.

Such instances could be multiplied. Look at pages 110, 120 and 171 of the Red Book and you will find a large number of simple but essential schemes of expenditure for which money was sanctioned by this House but could not be spent by Government. It is pertinent to ask how long a Finance Minister can go on indulging in the futile pastime of providing for money on paper which his colleagues cannot spend. Speaking for myself, I was increasingly finding the circumstances intolerable. I would, however, wish the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy better luck.

Even in the ensuing year, although the Budget is a deficit one, I do not think the Finance Minister will claim that any well-conceived scheme for which all necessary plans had been worked out in every detail and were complete could not be taken into hand only on the ground of lack of funds.

Regarding fresh taxation, the Hon'ble Minister suggests taxes on entertainments, on consumption of electricity, etc. Schemes for new taxation yielding a revenue of about 25 to 30 lakhs was ready in the department before I left, and I think that during the next two years at least it would hardly be possible, even if very vigorous efforts are made, to draw up and put in operation ameliorative schemes requiring recurring expenditure of an amount larger than this. The schemes referred to include—

Taxes on Monopolies.

Motor Vehicles Tax.

Excise Duty on foreign liquor.

The honourable members of the opposition have——

Mr. SPEAKER: One moment, Mr. Sarker. How long will you take to finish your speech?

Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: About three or four minutes.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I do hope Mr. Sarker will speak as long as he likes because it is a very interesting speech.

Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: The honourable members of the Opposition have criticised the Government for not taking up big schemes of nation-building. The sentiments expressed by the Leader of the Opposition in his speech on the Budget are also apposite. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister himself has expressed his disappointment at not being able to do anything for the ill-fed, ill-housed and malaria-ridden people of the province. The problems to which both sides refer

are real, acute and stupendous, so stupendous, in fact, that whatever one may say in speeches or write on paper one could never sufficiently express the magnitude of the problems or the difficulty of finding solutions for them. But judging from the manner in which both sides talk about these problems, I am afraid I could not help feeling that there was an air of unreality about the whole discussion. The speech my honourable friend Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed has just delivered confirmed me in this belief. I myself had at the beginning thought more or less on the same lines, but before long the realities of the position, the limitations to our efforts and action began to dawn upon me. Neither the Hon'ble Minister nor the honourable members of the Opposition seem to be adequately conscious of the limitations imposed by the setting or framework in and through which all efforts for nation-building work must be made. Who is to make the efforts? No doubt, the particular set of people who at any time may have been returned to this Legislature acting through the party, group or groups who may at the particular moment hold the majority in the Legislature. Their efforts and their achievements cannot but be a reflection of their particular temper, their outlook and their abilities. They cannot be expected to contribute more than what they have in them. Nobody has so far described a Roosevelt or a Mussolini among them. To expect them, therefore, to accomplish tasks which baffle even a Roosevelt or a Mussolini is to think and speak without a proper sense of realities. The criticisms of the honourable members of the Opposition in this connection appear to me, in particular, to be ironically meant. How can they expect a particular body to execute big schemes when they see from year to year that even very simple schemes cannot be executed by that body?

The ability to undertake and execute big, comprehensive schemes calls not so much for money, but for efficiency much more than money. There must, in the first place, be a realisation of the problems which we have to tackle. In the second place, solutions for these problems will have to be evolved. And, lastly, the solutions must be given practical shape, appropriate and efficient machinery will have to be devised for their execution, and necessary funds provided for. To the extent to which these conditions will be fulfilled, to that extent alone can we expect to obtain tangible and beneficial results from the activities of the Government.

Now, the moot question is this: Can the results which Opposition members desire and the Finance Minister aspires for be achieved under prevailing conditions? In the prevailing atmosphere where is there the incentive to acquire that efficiency, the incentive to devote one's energies whole-heartedly to constructive national work? Where leadership and applause are assured merely by making successful appeals to communal feelings and passions or upholding minimum efficiency as

the criterion or reiterating extremist slogans, the temptation to resort to these easier methods rather than the arduous and uncertain method of recognition through constructive work is perhaps much too overpowering. In the circumstances, I do not think there is any other way open to us than to put pressure upon the Government so that they may be impelled to hasten, even though slowly. I am not a pessimist, far less a cynic, but my training and experience taught me always to call a spade a spade. I am however not without hope that a better time may come and better things and nobler ideals may prevail.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Speaker. For the first time in the history of this House or perhaps in the history of any house of legislature people have witnessed such self-condemnation as we have heard to-day, from the hon'ble member for the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce. I admire the honourable member for the courage he has shown to us to-night. He has given us a list of items from last year's budget which he said were not devoted to the objects for which they were passed. Sir, there is another side to that picture. The obstructionist policy of the Finance Department and the obstructive habits of the ex-Finance Minister are responsible for it. (Laughter from Coalition Benches.) The bugbear of the party can perhaps be overplayed. The manner in which, against all the terrible conditions he has portrayed before us, he stuck to office with his teeth is indeed surprising. Under the terrible bugbear of the Coalition Party I am surprised he did not resign earlier. To come forward now and to criticise a thing which he himself had prepared is really most astounding. The Hon'ble Finance Minister is carrying some one else's baby, Sir. At the tag end of the year, 1939, and more recently under a sad and deep personal bereavement he took charge of the department. The repast had already been cooked; all the items of the budget had been prepared and its framework and structure put in position. The task of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister was merely to present it to the public gaze. I am glad honourable gentlemen opposite have now begun to realise that the cheers and applause they bestowed on the honourable member for the Bengal National Chamber were rather misplaced.

Mr. Speaker. Fears of depression have been placed before us with all the dignity and authority of an economic professor. I join issue with the honourable member for the Bengal National Chamber even on that point. He has very carefully and cleverly failed to mention in the history of the depression after the last war that there was something like an income from reparations and there was the inflation in the currency that kept the depression down till 1929. The crash came when America demanded the money which England could not pay because Germany could not meet her liabilities. A war always entails a period of depression. I agree with him in this much that we must

prepare from now to face the depression whenever it comes for I am convinced that come it must. We must begin to place our house in order.

Another theory which the honourable member for the Bengal National Chamber enunciated before us, which again astounded me, was that taxation should only be resorted to when you want to balance a budget. His sources of inspiration are different from mine. If he had read Gokhale he would have found that a balanced budget is not necessarily the best budget. Loans can be floated and in fact must be floated for productive enterprises. If your capital is spent in a manner, which brings to you a percentage of income higher than the rate of interest you pay, borrow as much as you can. My complaint against the honourable member for the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce even when he was in office, was that he did not, for the sake of losing the encomiums from Dundee and from Whitehall, borrow at the time when money was cheap. Other provinces borrowed crores; even little Central Provinces borrowed a lot while we were kept back. He now comes forward and preaches to us a homily on malaria and nation-building activities. I repeat, Sir, that we were held back by the Finance Department. I would inform the House that this bugbear of the Coalition Party is entirely non-existent. The party never intertered in the manner suggested. On the contrary the Party gave the Cabinet the fullest possible latitude to go on and do their best for the province. We have been waiting, at least I have been waiting these long three years for one step forward. In fact, my complaint has been that the pace of progress is very slow. (Cries of "hear" "hear" from Coalition Benches.) I do not know what were the motives that induced the Finance Department to hold up plans and not to sanction expenditure on grants made by the House. Was it to get a leading article in some Anglo-Indian journal saying what a great financier the department had and how wonderfully well he was keeping the budget balanced? Courage and imagination should have been shown from the first day the Ministry took office. To criticise a Budget of one's own making does require a good deal of hardihood and a large amount of audacity. I expect the House by now has realized that the present Finance Minister has nothing to do with this Budget which like its predecessors, is a dry departmental Budget.

I shall not detain the House long, Sir. There are however a few observations I wanted to place before the House. One point which I should like to urge upon the Hon'ble the Finance Minister is that if money can be borrowed to fight a war of destruction I do not see what economic principle or any other principle on earth can stop us from borrowing money to fight a war of construction, a war against ignorance, pestilence and poverty? We are anxious to carry out our national programme. Let us borrow even at a higher rate of interest and let us spend it in a manner that brings a return upon it.

Another point, Sir, to which I am anxious to draw the attention of the House to-day is to the question of Calcutta which seems to dominate Bengal. We seem to feel as if Calcutta is Bengal. There should be a sort of financial irrigation—if I may be allowed to use that term—a flow of capital from urban centres to rural centres and *vice versa*. Honourable members will at once realise that as all the money flows into Calcutta, the rate of interest here becomes lower and, correspondingly, it rises higher in the districts, with the result that our country cousins cannot manage to borrow money at proper or even reasonable rates of interest. Co-operative Credit, Co-operative Banking and similar other channels should be utilised for the flow of money from these urban centres to rural centres. I tried to find, in the Financial Statement some scheme, some plan to encourage and stabilise industries, whether cottage or on a large scale. It was perhaps difficult for the Hon'ble Minister to take charge of the Finance Department in December and to come forward with it at breakneck speed with plans and projects of a far-reaching character. I hope the Hon'ble the Finance Minister will realise that we are waiting. I shall look forward with very great interest to the proposals he is likely to bring before us about the middle of the year.

There is one point, Sir, on which, if the Hon'ble the Finance Minister will throw some light, honourable members on this side of the House will be gratified. The Commission on the Land Revenue System in Bengal has been working for some time now. I do not know when its report is likely to come out. Rumours—if they are correct—tell us that the report may be published any time in April or May. The implementation of the report is a necessity of the utmost and highest importance. Is it to be understood from the Budget figures that whatever the recommendations of this Commission be, they are not likely to be implemented during the course of the present financial year? It is a gigantic problem, and I know, Sir, that it will mean almost a revolution in Bengal; but we are out, Sir, for that revolution. We are committed to unsettle the Permanent Settlement, Sir. If the Hon'ble the Finance Minister will kindly throw some light on this matter it will be very welcome to us.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Would you say a word about the implementation of the Jute Committee Report?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am thinking of Madaripur. (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: We have implemented the Jute Committee Report.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: I hope, Sir, that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister will continue to be in charge of the Department until the life of the present Assembly is over, and I hope that during the remaining span of its life he will bring to it his knowledge of the conditions in Bengal based on his experience as Commerce and Labour Minister and his association with his other colleagues in the Cabinet. These must have told him that advancement in one direction alone and none in the other may not bring us the desired result. Advancement has to be all along the line. Schemes for drainage, training of rivers, excavation of tanks—for which we have already passed an Act—have not yet been put into operation. As regards water-hyacinth, I have seen many photographs of garlanded officials. I hope these photographs will stop and something real and substantial will be done——(Cries of "hear" "hear"). Then, Sir, there are questions of rural reconstruction, dams, erosions, re-afforestation and so on, which if rightly tackled, will be of immense help to the agricultural classes on the one hand and will fill the coffers of the Exchequer on the other.

The Leader of the European Group has told us that his party does not agree with the policy of the Government in regard to the restriction of Jute cultivation. For the Muslim Chamber of Commerce which I have the privilege to represent in this House, it is a matter of pride and we are legitimately gratified at the fact that the Muslim Chamber took the lead and induced the Government to adopt the policy of restriction. I need not go into details at this stage as there will be other opportunities fo do so but I cannot help remarking that we differ, fundamentally, from the viewpoint expressed by the European Group. To my mind the restriction of jute cultivation is the only remedy that Bengal can have. (At this stage there was some interruption from a member of the Opposition.) Through you, Sir, I appeal to the honourable gentleman on the other side that if he cannot understand what I am saying he had better read my speech when reported. What I was saying, Sir, was that if the Government of Bengal can catch hold of this golden fibre, if they implement all the dreams and ideas that Indians have on this subject, which are economically and commercially sound for the people of Bengal also, the Hon'ble Minister will get all the money he wants. The economic salvation of Bengal lies in the proper control of Jute from the field to lands across the seas. There is nothing to be afraid of. There is nothing to fear. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister may even not be called upon to enter into any long-term loans. If it comes to that, I shall welcome it. But, as I have said, jute and jute alone will give him all the money for all the schemes that all of us have tried to put before the House.

Sir, I shall not detain the House any longer, but I cannot finish without one request, through you, Sir, to the honourable member for

the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce that if he must give us speeches similar to the one to-day and lectures to us as he has done to-day, he will try and not tell us tales out of the school—what happened inside the Cabinet or what happened outside the Cabinet and how the party behaved. It is not done.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is no mean fortune for this House that a rift in the "happy family" that has occurred has brought to light in this leap year, once in four years, facts which Bengal should have known earlier. Sir, Mr. Sarker's criticism of the Budget was listened to with rapt attention by all sides of the House. Mr. Sarker has to be congratulated, at least once, for his speech on the Bengal Budget. He had been sponsoring the Budget for the last three years but, never before did he speak with such candour.

(At this stage there was much noise in the House.)

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: On a point of order, Sir. Why is there so much disturbance in the House when the honourable member is speaking?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that there is too much noise. It should stop.

A Coalition Party member: Some honourable members are leaving the Chamber.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: They ought to know how to leave the Chamber.

Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: Mr. Sarker's four consecutive speeches on the Budget have revealed to this House different aspects from which we have an opportunity of judging the budgetary schemes of the Bengal Ministry. His criticisms were not, it seems, without their sting for the member of the Coalition Party who spoke just now. My honourable friend Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi has with candour, though not without indignation, accepted the entire gist of the criticism of Mr. Sarker. Only he has opined that Mr. Sarker should have resigned earlier from the Cabinet and left the company in which he found himself out of tune. (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: If that was so.) The Hon'ble the Finance Minister raises an "if". It is fortunately no hypothesis but all categorical for the time being and we now know what was happening and what was not happening in the affairs of the "happy family."

Sir, whatever may have happened in the past, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has perforce been no less candid in acknowledging that this is not only a deficit Budget in a second successive year, but also that he had no scheme to put forward. It is, Sir, already three years now and we are coming to the sun-down of life of the present Ministry and of the present Assembly. In the first Budget speech of the Finnance Minister we all remember that we had been vouchsafed the promise of a comprehensive scheme that was to bless Bengal; we had the promise of a comprehensive scheme which in every rural area would give medical amenities, educational facilities and all that one might desire. There was so much promise, so much hope was aroused at the beginning of the term of this Government. But to-day we find in this Budget not only an absence—a total absence—of any comprehensive scheme or of any central plan, but probably with the exit of Mr. Sarker from the Cabinet that promised comprehensive scheme also has found its exit—no more to return in the course of the next two years. Here, as Mr. Sarker has aptly pointed out, large sums were sanctioned by the House on various nation-building works, but not spent.

If they were to be actually spent for the purposes for which they were intended, it would mean laborious work, careful thinking and comprehensive planning for the Government. But, Sir, for want of that care and capacity the entire money remains unspent. My hon'ble friend, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, waxed eloquent over the necessity of floating productive loans for nation-building purposes, in his not too effective attempt to condone the crimes of the Cabinet which to-day it fell to Mr. Sarker to bring to light before this House. Mr. Siddiqi was advocating that in better times the Bengal Ministry should have floated a huge loan, should have got more money for a grand scheme of national reconstruction. But, Sir, may we not ask pertinently,—was all that loan to be floated and was accumulation of interest payment to be counted on that loan, so that the scheme might remain only a scheme and the money remain unspent in evidence of the utter incapacity of the Government? Facts now bring to our view, quite late in the day, the utter bankruptcy of thought on the part of the present Ministry. The Finance Minister has not only made valuable confessions also of planlessness, bankruptcy of ideas and want of foresight in the Budget, he has done more. He has devised the tactics in presenting his Budget of raising fears and bogeys only to cloak the incapacity and the planlessness of the present Cabinet. He said that it would be dangerous now to enlarge our commitments on the basis of that prosperity which he sees with the beginning of the war and not to take precautions against the slump which all previous experience suggests must inevitably follow. Here, Sir, it reminds one of the

story of a slump that had been brought about by the frequenter of a public bar. A customer picked up from the floor a piece of paper with a valuable secret information. War was coming and there was danger that a slump would set in. The man was judicious and thoughtful—almost as thoughtful as the Hon'ble Finance Minister proposes to be. He immediately stopped buying his glass of beer at the bar. The bar-keeper of course suffered; the landlord suffered too; the brewery closed down; the workers were thrown out of work; the hops in the field went to rot; the farmer was ruined. An all-round slump set in. It was then discovered that the piece of paper responsible for the panic and the resultant slump was an old scrap of paper of 20 years ago with regard to the conditions which were no more in existence. Sir, I would ask the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy not to stop buying his glass of beer and spread panic like the over-cautious customer of the public bar. I would ask him to go deeper than that, and try to avert the beginning of the slump. Here in Bengal we find to-day an almost amusing spectacle, if it were not so serious, in this Budget. The bogey of a slump has been raised by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister; no wonder if the slump sets in. There was also the further confession that decrease in the expenditure on civil works was due to the slow progress in execution of the works; this naturally led to diminution of work; that naturally led to the diminution of income of the working classes, and that in its turn led to the diminution in the income of all sections of the people who rely one way or the other upon new constructive plans and works. Therefore, I do feel that behind all these the Ministry has made its vain attempt to cover its bankruptcy of ideas. No wonder, the slump may be hastened and expedited for this very reason. But even while sounding this note of caution that we must not enlarge our commitments, Mr. Suhrawardy has not lacked in boldness to please his imperialist masters. He has been very bold, indeed, almost displayed a martial spirit, and these are his words: "We must be ready and prepared to take our due share in the burden of the war should events move nearer home and involve us more directly and closely." The Hon'ble Mr Suhrawardy who, out of fear for a slump, is precisely doing everything possible to hasten it by contracting and narrowing down whatever could be termed as nation-building commitments, has now dared to undertake commitments for the war. May I ask out of what will the due share in the burden of war be borne and who is going to bear that due share in the burden of the war? If the province is to be left with diminished resources, then, Sir, where is the money to bear this burden of the war to come from? It would be precisely out of further taxation. It would precisely be out of raising a further loan from the impoverished people of this province. We know, Sir, what methods were used during the last war to extract loans from the people of India. There have been notorious cases of extortion and coercion by

men like Michael O'Dwyer and other notorious names of administrators of his tribe. Sir, we cannot but be apprehensive when we hear of this bold resolve with regard to the shouldering of the burden of the war—a war over which we have no control—a war which is not of our making. Although it has been argued that expenditure on the war items will be recoverable from the Government of India, we on this side of the House most strongly condemn such expenditure. Thanks to the masterly analysis of the Leader of the Opposition on one occasion, we have before us a clear picture of the nature of the war and the war aims of the British Government. We, Sir, on principle stand committed to do everything possible to make it impossible for the Hon'ble the Finance Minister and for this Cabinet or for any other Cabinet to raise by further taxation or by oppression of the people a single pie or a single soldier for perpetuating the slavery of Bengal. Therefore, Sir, I may say from this side of the House, I may give the Finance Minister this note of warning, that the Government of Bengal may extern people, may restrain them from their normal avocations, may even extern and restrain them from carrying on their legitimate activities, but, Sir, they cannot get the willing co-operation of the people of Bengal whether Hindus or Muslims. They cannot get the willing co-operation, I say, even of the members of their own side, if a single spark is left in their conscience. They cannot induce any man in Bengal to shoulder arms in this predatory war, a war in which we can discern nothing but a robber's blood, lust for the redivision of the world. In this war we find Great Britain, holding as she does more than one million square miles of land which she had stolen from her rival powers, is carrying on her depredations in other peoples' lands, by throwing bombs in the North-West Frontier Province, by devastating Arabia, Palestine, Egypt, China and laying waste every other part of the world. To-day, Sir, we hear of the much vaunted talk of the British Government coming forward as champion of democracy, as the guardians of Islam. Sir, who were the Imperialists that bombed Mecca, who are those Imperialists of Britain who on the pretext of the murder of one Mr. Stark have ravaged Egypt, who are those Imperialists who are to-day decimating the lives of innocent men, women and children on our North-West Frontier, inhabited by the Muslims, our countrymen in any case? And we are told yet that we must rise to defend this Government. Those days are past. The other day one member from the other side of the House gave a threat and threw out a challenge that he was prepared for a civil war in Bengal. If India is to be prepared for a civil war, it will be precisely to safeguard the rights and interests of the people of Bengal and of the people of India and to resist any proposal that the Hon'ble Minister as the self-appointed agent-in-chief of the British War Office may venture to bring forward at a later date. May he take the warning? It will not be too much—it will be

no audacity on my part—if I ask him to approach his own constituents to go to the public and take a verdict on his proposals. Sir, it is still fresh in our mind that the Palestine day was observed all over Calcutta to protest against the cruelty and barbarity to which the Palestine Arabs were being subjected under the iron heels of the British banditry. Thousands of Muslims took the lead to raise their voice of protest. Public memory may be short, but not so short as to forget the lessons that we have learnt at the cost of blood. May the Hon'ble Minister take heed and take note of the writings on the wall. Sir, here I would like to mention a few words about his treatment to labour.

(At this stage the time-limit was reached and the member was allowed 2 minutes.)

Sir, with regard to labour, I believe the Hon'ble Finance Minister finds himself overwhelmed and overworked and therefore unable to mitigate the stress and strain on the life of our labourers. Probably his labour portfolio is already submerged, and here in his Budget, police and such items take over almost everything. Police alone would come to 16 per cent. of the total Budget estimates. All the nation-building items concerned would only amount to about 23 per cent. of the Budget.

Sir, by scanning the entire Budget I find that a figure for hospitals in Cinchona Plantation accounts for Rs. 18,000. Here is the report on the Cinchona Plantation where it is said that the balance of profit of these plantations is Rs. 8,31,000 and odd. What an enormous beneficence! Then there is the grant to the Labour Welfare Organisation of Rs. 20,000 and the cost of Inquiry is Rs. 10,000. Here is, Sir, an admission as to how that money is spent. The Hon'ble Finance Minister answering a question in the Upper House said that he had granted an organisation called Bengal National Labour Welfare League, which, he admits, is already defunct Rs. 2,500 in 1937-38 and Rs. 15,000 in 1938-39, and there is no account as to how money is spent and how much is spent on each item. This House is asked to vote moneys for such squander and shady transactions. Sir, this is a complete revelation of the Hon'ble Finance Minister's methods of disbursement of public funds.

(At this stage the member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now 8 o'clock.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: It is time for the House to be adjourned.

Mr. SPEAKER: Every one is anxious to go home except myself.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: How do you propose disposing of the time to-morrow?

Mr. SPEAKER: I don't dispose because I may not be here.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: You might leave some instructions.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have no right to do so.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: When do we meet to-morrow?

Mr. SPEAKER: Government have already agreed that the House should meet to-morrow at 11 a.m.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Can we not meet earlier?

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: If such is the desire of Government benches, we have no objection to the House meeting at 10-30.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I think that it would be better if we meet at 10 a.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: You want the House to meet at 10, but it was settled at first that it should meet at 11 a.m. As a sort of compromise, let it be 10-30.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: We are always for the golden mean.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That will not give us much time.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 10 a.m. to-morrow.

Adjournment.

It being 8 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 24th February, 1940, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Saturday, the 24th February, 1940, at 10 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 211 members.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. SPEAKER: What I propose to do is that I would allow one speaker from each block to speak, finish the whole lot and then come back again.

Mr. ANUKUL CHANDRA DAS: Sir, yesterday the arrangement was made that the Independent Group will speak first, then the Europeans and then ourselves.

Mr. SPEAKER: As there are so many speakers, I hope members would each finish their speeches in 10 minutes, so that I may allow a large number of speakers to speak.

Khan Sahib Maulvi S. ABDUR RAUF: Sir, in rising to speak a few words on the Budget Estimate of the province of Bengal for the year 1940-41 which is before us and which has already been prepared and presented before us for acceptance and passing, I think in the first place it is my duty to congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for his candid admission in the conclusion of his Budget speech where he says——

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, on a point of order. The Finance Minister is not present.

Mr. SPEAKER: He should have been present. But I do not want to create the precedent of the other House here.

Khan Sahib Maulvi S. ABDUR RAUF: Where he says, "We must expand and expand progressively. There is such a crying need for an immediate expansion of our nation-building activities that to my

colleagues, to the honourable members of this House, to all those in fact who know and deplore the conditions in which the ill-educated, ill-housed, ill-fed and malaria-stricken sons of Bengal live this year's Budget must be as great a disappointment as it is to me personally." But I cannot congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister when he says that for the nation-building activities he will have to take recourse to new taxation which is very shocking to me. I know that Bengal is already over-burdened with taxation and they are groaning under it and to my mind the people of Bengal are already exhausted and they have got no capacity for paying any new tax. In this connection I may warn the Hon'ble the Finance Minister that there has been a great difficulty in Bombay and Madras for this sort of new taxation. New taxation will lose the popularity of the Government and there will be a great agitation against this Government which has become popular to the majority of people of the province. Sir, three days have been allotted for the discussion of the Budget Estimates of the province of Bengal and for these last three years we are having discussion and criticism on the Budget of the province, but to our utter surprise we are finding the same thing repeated over and over again in the same way since the establishment of the British Empire in India. The Budget has been presented to us, whether we have any discussion or criticism on it or not we shall have to pass the Budget *in toto* whether we have a mind for it or not. Sir, it is said that criticism, discussion and suggestions by the members of the House are necessary to the future Budget of the province. Sir, we are having discussion, criticism and suggestions every year, but alas! though we are crying hoarse we cannot change the mentality and system of the Government which is being carried on since the establishment of the British Empire. We are told that it is a popular Government—Government by the people and Government for the people. The constitution has been changed in form and in name, but in reality it is the same old Government. We know that a Standing Finance Committee has been formed, but we do not know whether that Committee has been at all consulted about the preparation of the Budget before it was presented to the House. In my opinion the Budget of the province should be prepared in consultation with the Standing Finance Committee. If that is done, then the Budget could be made according to the real needs of the people.

Sir, turning to the receipt side of the Budget I am really astonished to find that a large sum of money has been surrendered for non-utilisation on those accounts for which it was set apart. I do not know what is the reason for it. It may be that there is no scheme for it or that there is no necessity for it or that programme could not be made for it. Who is responsible for these? Is it the Minister concerned or the department concerned? I know of a particular case regarding the construction of the civil court buildings at Howrah. Two lakhs of

rupees were set apart for the construction of the civil court building at Howrah in this year's Budget. The district of Howrah has been separated from Hooghly and it has been made a separate district. There is no record room and the present civil court building is quite insufficient for a separate district. The building is urgently necessary and several representations have been made by the local bar as well as by the public for the extension of the civil court building. But to my utter surprise I find that in this year's Budget the said sum of rupees two lakhs has been deducted by a sum of Rs. 1,99,000, keeping a balance of Rs. 1,000 for the said building. I earnestly request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to set apart the said sum of Rs. 2,00,000 for the removal of the long-felt want of the people of Howrah.

Sir, turning to the expenditure side of the Budget I greatly regret that a very meagre sum has been set apart for the nation-building activities. The Hon'ble Finance Minister, popular as he is, ought to have kept a large sum of money for the nation-building activities, *e.g.*, Agriculture, Irrigation, Industry, etc., thereby he would have been able to remove the question of unemployment to some extent. Sir, as for Irrigation the Hon'ble Finance Minister has suggested some new schemes in North Bengal, Calcutta, Khulna, Hooghly and some other districts, but he forgets altogether to make any provision for the district of Howrah which is badly suffering for want of a proper canal through the Kandua field which remains under water for a considerable part of the year, causing great damage to the crops and health of the locality inhabited by about two lakhs of people. For the last three years I have been requesting the Government to remove this long-felt want by setting apart Rs. 1,50,000 but to no effect. I do not know when my prayer will be fulfilled. I have been given hopes many a time, but no provision has been made for this. I hope that something will be done in this direction.

As regards the Department of Education it is the admitted policy of the Government that free primary education should be given to the people of the province. It has been so said many a time by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister and many of my colleagues here. But to my utter surprise I find that there is no provision anywhere which might indicate that this problem has been seriously taken up as yet. There is a provision of 5 lakhs of rupees for primary education in the cess-paying districts. But there is no provision in the Budget for those districts where District School Boards have been established but no cess has yet been imposed. In the district of Howrah the School Board has been established but owing to the postponement of the education cess in that district the primary schools have become unmanageable as the teachers of the primary schools are not getting any grant from the District School Board Fund in which there is at present only Rs. 47,000. This fund will be exhausted if the existing teachers are paid two quarters

grant. There will be no money left in the fund of the District School Board after the payment of two-quarters grant. The teachers will have to starve and the existence of the primary schools will be blotted out from the district of Howrah if the Government does not come forward to help the District School Board of Howrah. Formerly, when primary education was in the hands of the District Board the primary schools used to get grants throughout the year. If the education cess is again postponed this year and if the Government does not come with an adequate grant to the District School Board, Howrah, then the cause of primary education will be greatly hampered. So I request the Government to introduce the education cess at Howrah from this year at once, so that the primary schools may be kept alive. The majority of the people of Howrah are quite agreeable to pay the education cess from this year, so that their children may get free primary education from now.

Sir, as regards adult education, very small provision has been made. I request the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to stretch his helping hand towards this direction of adult education of this province. I do not want to deal with the importance of adult education which is known to everybody.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mrs. HEMAPROVA MAJUMDAR: বাংলার বাজেট আলোচনা করিতে এক কথায় বলিতে গেলে ইহা যে কেবল নৈরাশ্যজনক তাহা নহে ভীতি ব্যঞ্জকও বটে।

দেখিতে দেখিতে আমাদের প্রভিন্সিয়াল অটনমির পঞ্চম বর্ষ জীবনের তিন বছর অতিত হইয়া গেল। দেশের লোক অপরিমিত আশা লইয়া এই মরিচীকার পশ্চাতে ছুটিয়াছিল বুক ভরা ভরসা লইয়া ভোট দিয়া আমাদের দ্বারা আইনশালা ভর্ত্তি করিতে, (পোলাও, মাংস, কালিয়া, কোর্ম্মা প্রভৃতি কত ফন্দই না পাইয়াছিল)। তৎপর শুনিল অন্ততঃ ডাইল-ভাতে পেট ভরিবে। কিন্তু তৃতীয় বছরের শেষভাগে এক সন্ধ্যায় শুনিল ডাল, ভাত যোগান বাবুর্চির কার্য্য মন্ত্রিদের নহে। তারপর চতুর্থ বছরের আগমণী ফর্দের (বাজেটের) পৃষ্ঠা খুলিলে দেখা গেল ডাইল চাউলের তহবিলও ফুরাইয়া গিয়াছে এখন ভাণ্ড বজায় রাখিতে তাহাদের নূতন করিয়া ট্যাক্স দিতে হইবে। ডাইল, ভাত প্রস্তুত করা যে বাবুর্চির কার্য্য তাহা সমাজের যে স্তর হইতে মন্ত্রী সংগৃহিত হইয়াছে, তাহাদের কয়েক গৃহে মাত্র হইয়া থাকে। কোটি কোটি দেশবাসীর গৃহে অন্নদাতৃ মাতৃশক্তি। এখন দেখা যাক্ যাহারা রন্ধনশালায় হাঁড়ি চড়াইয়া মন্ত্রীদের মুখের দিকে চাহিয়া অপেক্ষা করিতেছে সমাজের সেই কুলকুণ্ডলিনী শক্তি নারীদের জন্য বাজেটে কি বরাদ্দ আছে। বাংলাদেশে নারীর সংখ্যা কিছু কম; আড়াই কোটি। তাহাদের উন্নতিকল্পে বাজেট বরাদ্দ যে অতি শোচনীয় শিক্ষা বিষয়ের আলোচনায় তা দেখা যাইবে। বাংলার ছাত্রীসংখ্যা বাজেটের অঙ্কের ন্যায় হাজারের কোঠায় পড়িতেছে তাহাদের চাহিদা মিটাইতে গভর্ণমেণ্ট পরিচালিত কলেজ প্রয়োজন অনুপাতে অতি সামান্য। তন্মধ্যে Lady Brabourne College একটি তাহাতে সাধারণের সুবিধা নেই বলেই চলে। ছাত্রীর বৃদ্ধি অপেক্ষা প্রফেসার ও staff এর বৃদ্ধির প্রতিই কর্তৃপক্ষের মনোযোগ বেশী বলিয়া মনে হয়। অবশ্য প্রাইভেট কলেজ কর্তৃপক্ষেরা এবিষয় মনোযোগ দিয়াছেন কিন্তু চাহিদা

মিটিতেছে না। ছাত্রী-নিবাসের অভাব বিশেষভাবে অনুভূত হইতেছে। উপযুক্ত তত্ত্বাবধানে ছাত্রী-নিবাসের বন্দোবস্ত করা গভর্ণমেণ্টের বিশেষ প্রয়োজন। কিন্তু তাঁহারা এবিষয়ে একেবারে উদাসীন, নিজেরাত করিবেনই না শুনিলাম ইউনিভারসিটি একটি ছাত্রী-নিবাস খুলিবার সংকল্প করিয়াছেন; গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট প্রার্থনা করিয়া কোন সাহায্যই পাইতেছেন না। বিশ্বভারতীকে সাহায্য করায় যাহা কিছু সাহায্য এবিষয়ে হইত, সদাশয় গভর্ণমেণ্টের এ বৎসরের বাজেটে তাহাও বন্ধ করা হইয়াছে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট পরিচালিত সেকেণ্ডারী স্কুলের জন্য গ্র্যাণ্ট চাহিয়াছেন মাত্র ৩ লক্ষ টাকা তাহাও গত বৎসর অপেক্ষা এক হাজার টাকা কম।

নন্-গভর্ণমেণ্ট স্কুলের সাহায্যের জন্য গ্র্যাণ্ট চাহিয়াছেন মাত্র চার লক্ষ আটচল্লিশ হাজার (৪,৪৮,০০০) টাকা; তাহাও গত বছর হইতে (৭৯,০০০) টাকা কম। যেভাবে সর্বত্র ছাত্রীর সংখ্যা বাড়িতেছে তাহাতে প্রত্যেক জেলায় অন্ততঃ একটী করিয়া মহিলা হাই স্কুল বিশেষ দরকার। এইযে বরাদ্দ তাহারও খরচের বৈশিষ্ট্য এই যে শিক্ষার অপেক্ষা বিল্ডিংএর জন্যই খরচ হয় বেশী।

প্রাইমারী শিক্ষার বাজেটের প্রণিধান করিলে আরও প্রতীয়মান হইবে যে, মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী সাধারণতঃ বালিকা শিক্ষা বিষয়ে কত উদাসীন, যদিও ছাত্র-ছাত্রী খরচ বাজেটে একত্র থাকায় বালিকা শিক্ষার দৈন্য কতকটা ঢাকা পড়িয়াছে। কিন্তু ২।১ জায়গায় যেখানে অঙ্কগুলি আলাদা আছে তাহার প্রতি দৃষ্টিপাত করিলে অবস্থা উপলব্ধি হইবে।

গভর্ণমেণ্ট স্কুল ফর গার্ল্স (Government primary school for girls) মাত্র ৫,০০০ হাজার টাকা।

Direct গ্র্যাণ্ট to Non-Government special school for girls মাত্র (৯২,০০০) বিরানব্বই হাজার টাকা।

এইপ্রকার বিশ্লেষণ করিয়া দেখাইলে আরও অনেক দেখান যায়। কিন্তু আমার বক্তৃতার পরমায়ু মাত্র ১৫ মিনিট। যে দুইটি জিলায় প্রাইমারী স্কুল প্রবর্তন হইতেছে আমার জিলা ত্রিপুরা তাহার অন্যতম। সেখানকার স্কীমে গভর্ণমেণ্ট-পরিচালিত কোনও বালিকা বিদ্যালয় হইবে না। প্রত্যেক ইউনিয়নে একটি করিয়া বালিকা বিদ্যালয়ে সাহায্য দিবেন, তাহাও সচরাচর ৫৲ টাকা; কোন কোন স্থলে ৭৲ পর্যান্ত; প্রতি ইউনিয়নে গ্রামের সংখ্যা ৩০।৩৫।৪০ তাহার মধ্যে একটী মাত্র স্কুল— আর তার সাহায্য মাত্র ৫।৭৲ টাকা— এমনকি ১০৲ টাকা পর্যান্ত নহে। মাননীয় মেম্বরগণ বুঝিয়া লইবেন ইহা কি শিক্ষার বন্দোবস্ত না প্রকাণ্ড পরিহাস!

তারপর স্বাস্থ্য বিষয়ে সরকার যেভাবে বাজেট করিয়াছেন তাহাতে নারী জাতীর প্রতি উদাসীনতা আরও পরিষ্কাররূপে প্রতীয়মান হইবে। গত বছর কয়েকজন এসিষ্টেণ্ট ফিজিকেল ডিরেক্টর্স নিযুক্ত করিবার জন্য গ্র্যাণ্ট মঞ্জুর হইয়াছিল। কিন্তু এবারের বাজেটে দেখা যায় সেই বাবত ১৬,০০০৲ হাজার টাকা (সেইভিং খাতে) ফেরত জমা হইয়াছে। এক বছরের মধ্যে সরকার মহিলাদের জন্য এই ১৬ হাজার টাকা ব্যয় করিবার সুবিধা করিয়া উঠিতে পারিলেন না। বাজেটে মহিলা-স্বাস্থ্যের প্রতি উদাসীনতা দেখিয়া নিরাশায় বুক ভাঙ্গিয়া যায়।

পক্ষান্তরে—

(১) মহিলাদের স্বাস্থ্যহানির দরুণ শিশু-মৃত্যুর হার দিন দিনই বাড়িয়া চলিয়াছে।

(২) প্রসব সময়ে প্রসূতীর মৃত্যুর হারও ক্রমেই বাড়িতেছে।

(৩) অভিজ্ঞ ও trained ধাত্রীর অভাব সর্বত্রই অনুভূত হইতেছে।

(৪) কলিকাতায়ও এই অভাব বিশেষভাবে অনুভূত হইতেছে।

কলিকাতায় যে কয়েকটি প্রতিষ্ঠান আছে এবং হাসপাতালসমূহে যে বন্দোবস্ত আছে তাহা প্রয়োজন অপেক্ষা অতি কম। বিশেষতঃ সাধারণের পক্ষে এই সমস্ত জায়গায় পৌঁছান পর্যান্ত সম্ভব হইয়া উঠে না। এ বিষয়ে কলিকাতার অবস্থা ভয়াবহের স্থানে পৌঁছিয়াছে।

প্রত্যেক ওয়ার্ডে অন্ততঃ একটি একটি করিয়া ছোট ছোট প্রতিষ্ঠান থাকিলে মহিলারা তাহাতে হাঁটিয়া গিয়া বিনা খরচে বা অতি অল্প খরচে তাহাতে সাহায্য পাইয়া জীবন রক্ষা করিতে পারে। অভিজ্ঞ ধাত্রী ও ডাক্তারগণ মধ্যে সেবাব্রতী এমন লোক পাওয়া যায় যাহারা এই সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানে স্বেচ্ছায় সেবা করিতে প্রস্তুত। বাড়ীভাড়া ও এষ্টাব্লিসমেন্ট খরচের বন্দোবস্ত হইলেই প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে পারে। আমার মনে হয় মাসিক ২৫০৲।৩০০৲ টাকা সাহায্য হইলেই এইপ্রকার প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রয়োজনমত চলিতে পারে। গভর্ণমেন্ট এইপ্রকার স্কীম্ করিয়া বৎসরে এক লক্ষ (১,০০,০০০) টাকা বরাদ্দ করিলেই প্রত্যেক ওয়ার্ডে আপাততঃ একটি করিয়া প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে পারে এবং অনেক প্রসূতি মৃত্যুর হাত হইতে রক্ষা পাইতে পারে। ঢাকা টাউনের অবস্থাও এই প্রকার। এতদ্ব্যতীত ছোট ছোট সহরগুলির অবস্থা আরও শোচনীয়। বর্ত্তমান বাজেটের প্রতি দৃষ্টিপাত করিলে এ বিষয়ে মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণের চিন্তার উদ্রেক হইয়াছে বলিয়া মনে হয় না। গ্রামে গ্রামেও ধাত্রী ট্রেনিংএর বন্দোবস্ত করিয়া প্রসূতি-দিগকে মৃত্যুর হাত হইতে রক্ষা করার উপায় উদ্ভাবন করা বিশেষভাবে প্রয়োজন হইয়া পড়িয়াছে। মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী গত তিন বছরের কার্য্যদ্বারা দূরদর্শিতার যে পরিচয় দিয়াছেন, তাঁহাদের নিকট কতটা আশা করা যাইতে পারে তাহা অর্থ-সচিব মহাশয়ের স্বীয় বক্তৃতা হইতে দেখাইতে চেষ্টা করিব। তাঁহার ছাপান বক্তৃতার ৬ পৃষ্ঠায় ভূতপূর্ব্ব অর্থ-সচিব মহাশয়ের নিম্নলিখিত বক্তৃতা উদ্ধৃত করিয়াছেন:—

"In my estimate I have assumed that revenue will come in roughly at the level on which they have flowed during the last few months. I have assumed that war in Europe will not break out." এসম্বন্ধে বর্ত্তমান অর্থ-সচীব মহোদয় বলিতেছেন "The outbreak of hostilities have naturally upset the calculations on which the Budget Estimate were framed" বর্ত্তমান অর্থ-সচিব মহোদয় ভূতপূর্ব্ব অর্থ-সচিব মহাশয়ের বক্তৃতার আড়ালে নিজেকে রাখিয়া বলিতেছেন; বর্ত্তমান যুদ্ধের আবির্ভাব তাহাদের বাজেটের সমস্ত কাঠাম ভাঙ্গিয়া দিয়াছে। অবশ্য অদূরদর্শিতার বিষয়ে উল্লেখিত কোটেশন্ যে অকাট্য প্রমাণ তাহাতে সন্দেহ নাই। ৫ কোটী অধিবাসীর জীবন-মরণ সমস্যার ভার যাঁহাদের হাতে, ৬ মাস পরের অবস্থা ভাবিবার ক্ষমতা তাঁহাদের নাই। যেদিন দৃঢ়তার সহিত বলিলেন যুদ্ধ বাধিবে না, তাহার ৬ মাস যাইতেই যুদ্ধ সঠিকভাবে বাধিয়া সমস্ত ঘোলাইয়া দিল। ইহা হইতে অদূরদর্শিতার প্রমাণ আর কি হইতে পারে। কিন্তু অর্থ-সচিব মহোদয়কে জিজ্ঞাসা করি ইহার জন্য দায়ি কি ভূতপূর্ব্ব অর্থ-সচিব একা? বাজেট বক্তৃতা ও বাজেট কি অর্থ-সচিব একা প্রস্তুত করেন? মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর কোন হাত বা দায়িত্ব কি ইহার মধ্যে নাই?

এ ক্ষেত্রে চন্দ্রশেখরের লিখিত মণীষি বঙ্কিম বাবুর ভাষায় বলিতে ইচ্ছা হয় "এদের বকেও সুখ নেই" এই যুদ্ধ বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর অনেক সুবিধা করিয়া দিয়াছে। ইসলাম রক্ষার দোহাই দিয়া গত তিন বছর কাটিয়াছে। যুদ্ধের দোহাই দিয়া বাকী দুই বৎসর চলিবে। (Hear, hear!)

সংবাদপত্র ও কর্ম্মী দলন, সভা-সমিতিতে প্রচার ও মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর কর্ম্মের আলোচনা বন্ধ করা প্রভৃতি বহুপ্রকার অকর্ম্ম-কুকর্ম্মের সুযোগ এই যুদ্ধ মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীকে করিয়া দিয়াছে সত্য কিন্তু অন্য দিকে এই যুদ্ধ দেশবাসীর অন্ন-বস্ত্র সমস্যাকে জটিল করিয়া তুলিয়াছে।

সেদিন অন্নসমস্যার উত্তর দিতে গিয়া প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহোদয় বলিয়াছেন "বাংলার আকাশে বাতাসে টাকা ঘুরিয়া বেড়াইতেছে"। কথাটা একদিকে অতি সত্য কথা। বাংলার এইরূপ ধ্যান করিয়া ঋষি বঙ্কিমচন্দ্র গাহিয়াছেন—

সুজলাং সুফলাং মলয়জশীতলাং।
শস্যশ্যামলাং মাতরম্।

কবি দ্বিজেন্দ্র লাল গাহিয়াছেন—

ধন-ধান্যে পুষ্পে ভরা আমাদের এই বসুন্ধরা
তাহার মাঝে আছে দেশ এক সকল দেশের সেরা।
স্বপ্ন দিয়ে তৈরী সে যে স্মৃতি দিয়ে ঘেরা।

যেদিন বাংলা বাঙ্গালীর ছিল, সেই দিনের কথা স্মরণ করিয়াই কবি গাহিয়াছিলেন—

তারা পাখীর ডাকে ঘুমিয়ে পড়ে পাখীর ডাকে জাগে।

বাংলার এক দিন ছিল তাঁহারই বুকে উৎপন্ন ফলে-শস্যে উদর পূর্ণ করিয়া বঙ্গ-সন্তান সুনিদ্রায় রাত্রি যাপন করিত এবং পাখীর প্রভাত সঙ্গীতে পরমানন্দে শয্যা ত্যাগ করিত।

সেদিন বাঙ্গালীর উপলব্ধিতে মায়ের জগদ্ধাত্রী ও অন্নপূর্ণা রূপের কল্পনা জাগিয়াছিল।

মা দুই হাতে অন্ন বিতরণ করিয়া জগৎকে ধারণ করিতেন অর্থাৎ বাংলার উৎপন্ন অন্ন জগৎকে বাঁচাইয়া রাখিত। মা আমার আজিও জগদ্ধাত্রী; প্রতিদিন দণ্ডে দণ্ডে পলে পলে সে অন্ন প্রসব করে। বাংলায় আজও ষড় ঋতুতে ঐশ্বর্য্য উৎপন্ন হয়। এই House এ আমার সম্মুখে ও বামে দৃষ্টিপাত করিলে ইহাই দেখিতে পাওয়া যায় যে, এখনও পৃথিবীর সমস্ত দেশের লোক বাংলা মায়ের ঐশ্বর্য্য লইয়া ধনী হইতেছে; তবে পূর্ব্বে ও বর্ত্তমানে তফাত এই, দান, দাতব্য কৃয়াকলাপাদি সৎকর্ম্ম করিয়া অর্থ ব্যয় করিলেও তহবিল শূন্য হয়; আর ডাকাতে লুটিয়া লইলেও তহবিল শূন্য হয়। একের পরিণাম সুখ, শান্তি, আনন্দ; আর অপরের পরিণাম দুঃখ ও পরিতাপ।

আজ বাণিজ্য ব্যপদেশে মায়ের ঐশ্বর্য্য বিদেশী লুটিয়া লইতেছে। গৃহস্থ যেমন গরুগুলির দ্বারা ফসল উৎপন্ন করিয়া ঐ গরুর পিঠে দিয়াই ফসল লইয়া যায় এক মুষ্টীও গরুকে খাইতে দেয় না, তেমনই বাংলা মায়ের ঐশ্বর্য্য বাঙ্গালীর হাতেই—বিদেশী বুদ্ধিবলে বৈজ্ঞানিক উপায়ে লুটিয়া লইতেছে। তাই মনের দুঃখে বঙ্গ কবি গাহিয়াছিলেন—

(Here the member reached her time-limit.)

সভাপতি মহাশয় আমাকে আর দুই মিনিট সময় দিন।

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, please finish your speech.

Mrs. HEMAPROVA MAJUMDAR: মনের দুঃখে বঙ্গ কবি গাহিয়াছেন—

এই যে ক্ষেতে শস্য ভরা
তোদের ত নয় একটী ছড়া
তোদের হ'লে তাদের দেশে
চালান কেন হয়।
তোরা কেবল চাষের মালিক
গ্রাসের মালিক নয়।

তাই প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে জিজ্ঞাসা করি এই যে বাংলার আকাশে বাতাসে অর্থ ঘুরিয়া বেড়াইতেছে তাহা বুদ্ধিবলে লুটিয়া লইতেছে বিদেশী। বাঙ্গালী যাহাতে সংগ্রহ করিতে এবং লুটিবার হাত হইতে রক্ষা পাইতে পারে তাহার উপায় উদ্ভাবন করার দায়িত্ব কাহার? দেশের কোটি কোটি সন্তানের বিন্দু বিন্দু রক্ত হইতে উৎপন্ন ধনরাশী যাহাদের হাতে ন্যস্ত সেই মন্ত্রীদের কি কোন দায়িত্ব নাই? তাঁহারা কি বক্তৃতা ও বুদ্ধের দোহাই দিয়াই নিষ্কৃতি পাইবেন?

তাই বলিতে ইচ্ছা হয় এই সত্য কথাটী যদি প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহাশয় নিজে উপলব্ধি করিয়া বলিতেন, তবে তাঁহার গত তিন বছরের কার্য্যকলাপ অন্যরূপ ধারণ করিত। সেদিন খাস আস্কাসের বিদ্যুতের টাকাগুলি ধরিবার যে প্রচেষ্টা কর্পোরেশন করিয়াছিল, তাহা মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর বিরুদ্ধতায় ফাঁসিয়া গেল ব্যক্তির আচরণ বাদ দিয়া কথার ভাব গ্রহণ করা স্বাভাবিক নহে। তাই এই সুন্দর সত্য কথাটা প্রধান মন্ত্রীর মুখ হইতে বাহির হইয়া পরিহাসে পরিণত হইয়াছে। উপসংহারে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলিকে প্রণিধান করিতে অনুরোধ করি—

মাতৃশক্তি জাগে দুই প্রকারে—এক ধ্যানে ও জ্ঞানে, আর পীড়নে। একবার মণিপুরের দিকে দৃষ্টিপাত করুন; সেখানে জাগ্রত মাতৃশক্তি বুভুক্ষু সন্তানদের মৃত্যুর হাত হইতে রক্ষা করিবার জন্য চাউল রপ্তানি কাজ বন্ধ করিতে কৃতসঙ্কল্প হইয়া বন্দুকের গুলি ও সঙ্গিনের সম্মুখে বুক পাতিয়া দাঁড়াইয়াছে।

আজ বাংলার কোটি কোটি মা হাঁড়ি চড়াইয়া বুভুক্ষু সন্তানের মুখ চাহিয়া অপেক্ষা করিতেছে। এই জাগরণে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডল যদি ধীরতা ও স্থিরতার সহিত গৃহশিল্পাদির সাহায্যে মাতৃশক্তির সহায়তায় অন্নসমস্যার মীমাংসা করিতে পারেন, তবে দেশে শান্তি সম্ভব। নতুবা পীড়নে মাতৃশক্তির জাগরণে যে প্রবল তরঙ্গ উঠিবে সে তরঙ্গ রুধিবে কে?

বন্দেমাতরম।

Khan Sahib MUHAMMAD HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while taking part in the General Discussion of the Budget I do not intend to go into details nor do I like to criticise the Budget with a spirit of destructive opposition, but I want to say a few words by way of suggestion to the policy behind it.

Before entering into facts and figures of the Budget, I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister that although this is the fourth Budget of the popular Government, we are surprised to find that there is no indication of any comprehensive scheme which is likely to bring real comfort to the masses of Bengal. After careful scrutiny of the allotment for the departments which vitally affect the masses every one will agree with me when I say that the provision seems all through miserably inadequate and in some cases simply an eye-wash. Nobody can find there any definite programme or policy which is calculated to promote the best interests of the common people. The Budget repeats the same policy of niggardly allotment for the nation-building departments and reveals the same tale of faltering attitude on the part of Government with respect to them.

To start with Education. There has been enough of discussion and definite suggestions have been made during the last three years and all the members irrespective of their allegiance to the different political parties had been unanimous in the demands for free and compulsory primary education throughout Bengal. I can realise the vastness of the problem and the financial responsibility for any such scheme as well, but at the same time I would like to tell the Hon'ble the Education Minister that in this direction Government should take a bold step without any further delay. Any plea for shelving the problem will meet with disastrous consequences.

In the last Budget an additional provision of 5 lakhs was made for primary education when there were only three cess-paying districts which took up the Government scheme in its entirety. But this year when 6 more districts have come forward ready, the Budget shows the same provision on this item.

My district of Mymensingh alone will require an additional grant of 4 lakhs at the minimum without which the District School Board will have to close down a fairly large number of schools at once which will amount to denying a large section of the cess-paying people of their legitimate rights. On the other hand, the provision for collegiate education is disproportionately large with the result that we are creating a large number of disappointed graduates at the cost of elementary education of the people for which they have been directly taxed.

Agriculture is the pressing need of the province on which more than 80 per cent. of her population depends. With the rapid increase in population in this province the average area of the cultivable land is proportionately falling far short of the demand. This problem can only be solved by making the vast area of fallow land cultivable and by increasing the productivity of the already cultivable land. It is gratifying to note that a provision of Rs. 26,000 has been made for establishing union board farms and union board demonstration centres. The policy of opening small farms in union board areas instead of establishing big farms in district headquarters or subdivisional centres is welcome.

The question of expansion of the co-operative movement and of rural credit is the most vexed question of the day. Rural credit, Sir, has totally dried up and opening of a few land mortgage banks will not even touch the fringe of the problem. The poor agriculturists who are the worst sufferers do not and cannot actually derive any advantage out of these banks.

The sufferings of the agriculturists have reached the climax and unless the Government come to their rescue without any further loss of time, then it will be too late for anybody to try to save them. Unless, therefore, a large number of agricultural banks for advancing short-term loans are established throughout the province forthwith, the poor agriculturists will turn into landless beggars in no distant time.

Now, Sir, I am really sorry that the Muslim Finance Minister in India had to begin with presenting a deficit Budget. But I confess and I am sure all will agree with me that the Muslim Finance Minister has not proved himself unworthy for the task. He has made the best use of the resources at his disposal and has cut the coat just according to the cloth. It is only when the present Budget was being prepared that he took over charge of the department, and it is not humanly possible for him to make any further improvement of the structure whose foundation was laid before he came in.

Sir, I cannot conceive of a better Budget with the fund and time at his disposal. It will not be out of place to remind the Hon'ble Finance Minister that mere imposition of taxes and collection of revenues should not be deemed to be the only duty of the Government. If you are really anxious about doing anything for the ill-educated, ill-housed, and ill-fed and malaria-stricken sons of Bengal and if you are really serious about the industrialisation of the country and want to emancipate the poor cultivators from the grip of debt and disease, it is your duty to do so at once and lose no time.

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the fourth Budget of the present Ministry under provincial autonomy. No change, nothing new and nothing progressive, we find in the Budget. It is a stereotyped Budget and the administration is being carried on, on the same old bureaucratic lines. Many of my friends have discussed the Budget elaborately and last night the ex-Minister, Mr. N. R. Sarker, criticised the whole Budget. I don't like to repeat the same. But I would only add that no progressive scheme has been included in the present Budget relating to Public Health, Medical Rural Reconstruction, Irrigation and so on and the money provided for these purposes is not sufficient. I should like to say one thing, that in the Police Budget, Government have provided sufficient money. I don't think that the Intelligence Branch Department is of such a necessity for the present administration. It is a surprise to me, Sir, that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has not considered any comprehensive scheme or any constructive plan for the mass uplift towards the advancement of the country.

In the previous years, the Budget was presented by the ex-Minister Mr. N. R. Sarker who in spite of his having provided some provisions for the education of the Scheduled Castes failed to evoke any congratulations from us. But what can the present Finance Minister who has not even provided anything in the Budget as an additional grant for the education of Scheduled Castes expect from us? Are we to congratulate him or are we to denounce his action? I am constrained to speak out my mind to-day. In the previous years under the régimé of Mr. Sarker, it was the tall talk of the members of the Coalition Circle that the best interests of the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes had suffered due to the machinations of Mr. Sarker. But may I invite the attention of my friends of the Coalition Party, may I also remind my honourable friends, the Scheduled Caste members of the Coalition Group, of the provisions that were made in the previous years and what they have got to-day under this popular ministry?

Sir, it is significant to note that in the previous year, at the time of Mr. Sarker, in spite of the special grant of 5 lakhs for the education of Scheduled Castes more than Rs. 50,000 was provided for the Scheduled

Castes' education. But this year that special grant is on the verge of extinction and yet no attempt has been made whatsoever to provide any grant for the education of the Scheduled Castes.

Let me now turn to the budgetary provisions of the Education Department which have been made for the backward minorities including the Scheduled Castes and for the Muslim community. Sir, my friends of the House will find from the Budget Estimates that the Hon'ble Minister has not even touched the question of the educationally-backward Scheduled Castes, whereas he has provided lakhs of rupees for the education of Muslims and Muslim institutions as well. I understand that Rs. 50,000 has been provided for grants to madrassahs, Rs. 1,50,000 for the additional Muslim Hall to the Dacca University, Rs. 67,500 for the college, Rs. 15,000 for additional buildings to the madrassah, Rs. 11,000 for the Faridpur Girls' Junior Madrassah as capital grant, Rs. 21,000 for the extension of the Dining Hall attached to the Muslim Hall, Dacca Intermediate College, and Rs. 15,000 for the construction of a hostel for Muslim students at Pirojpur. I understand all that. But I must say that the Hon'ble Minister is absolutely partial to the interests of his community and he is absolutely blind to the educational interests of other communities. Am I not proper in saying that injustice is being done in the name of justice? It is most surprising to me what has made my Scheduled Caste friends of the Coalition including the Hon'ble Ministers belonging to the Scheduled Castes so charmed as to tolerate all this glaring injustice done by the present Ministry. What is the charm? Is it nomination to local bodies? Is it appointment as members of various committees with the prospect of drawing fat allowances, or is it the charm of titles such as Rai Sahibs and Rai Bahadurs? May I ask them to remember for a moment the effect of such a want of provision for removing the dismal illiteracy of the community? Education, I submit, is the only problem upon which the fate of the Scheduled Castes depends. Education is the only thing which will enable the community to safeguard its social, religious and political rights. I submit that the representatives of the Scheduled Castes should be very cautious from now because in days gone by the best interests of the Scheduled Castes suffered due to the highhandedness of the so-called Caste Hindu brethren, and at the present time the Muslims are realising their best interests at the cost of the Scheduled Castes. May I know what they have done since Rs. 5 lakhs was set apart from the year 1938? I ask whether it is not a fact that it is the independent Scheduled Caste Party which created the atmosphere in the House for the Hon'ble Chief Minister to show his sympathy by accepting my cut motion. Should they not feel ashamed of making a false propaganda in their constituencies in the name of Rs. 5 lakhs? Is it not a fact that they are making a false propaganda against the members of the independent Scheduled Caste Party? Should I be wrong in describing them that they are merely toys in the hands of Government? In this connection I should like to submit one thing.

It is by virtue of the terms of the Poona Pact, the Scheduled Castes have got a separate entity in the country and you will find that clause 9 of the Pact runs as follows:—

"In every province, of the educational grant an adequate sum shall be earmarked for providing educational facilities to the members of the depressed classes."

May I know what the Hon'ble Ministers of the Scheduled Castes who are sitting in the Cabinet are doing and what is the return for their fat salaries to their people? Are they sitting there only as ornamental members? Sir, let me sound a note of warning that the charm of a seat in the Cabinet will not last long and that a time will come when the literate masses will be in a position to realise what a cheating the seat in a Cabinet has been to the community. My honourable friends will be facing the hard realities then. I am sure that any false propaganda with the help of the "Pataka" will not last long. So far as my information goes, recently one of my friends Mr. Pulin Behary Mullick had been to Faridpur and tried to gain popularity by saying that Rs. 2½ lakhs would be provided in the present Budget at their instance. Where is that amount? Is it not a false propaganda? The Scheduled Caste communities are being cheated and are being deprived of their rights. My friends of the Muslim community are turning a deaf ear to their crying needs.

Sir, I had on many occasions discussed the educational needs of my community and pointed out that in order to combat the dismal illiteracy of the Scheduled Castes, an adequate sum should be earmarked as a recurring grant But I regret to say that the majority of the members of the Scheduled Caste Education Committee including the Special Officer are playing into the hands of Government who ought to have pushed the Government to spend the capital grants in one year and make it recurring.

(Here the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I want the advice of the Leader of the Coalition Party. I have got a list of about 17 members from their side. So either you should allow me to select the speakers by drawing a lottery or let the party select the speakers and give me a short list of them.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, may I submit that it will do if you give 5 minutes each to the speakers on our side?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am perfectly willing to ring the bell after 5 minutes, if you so desire.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: If 17 members are given 5 minutes each, that will take about 85 minutes; that means about 2 hours.

Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, there are certain new members and they ought to be given a chance to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is very difficult to make a distinction. So I will draw a lottery and allow members to speak in the exact order as decided by the lottery.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Sir, as the time is very short, I do not like to take time on congratulations. But coming to the Budget itself, I feel I will be failing in my duty if I do not put in my humble suggestions.

I will take up Rural Reconstruction first. In reply to my question the other day, the Hon'ble Minister told us that the Government was still examining the scheme of Rural Reconstruction which was laid before the House on the 16th March last and they have failed to formulate a well-planned method. To speak frankly, this delay has given me a rude shock. In the speech, we were told of a well-planned national scheme of rural uplift. But, Sir, who stood in the way of fulfilling the high hopes that were raised in the minds of the people. Is it the party, or the Finance Department which was, of late, held by Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker? I pause for a reply. From the number of questions put in this Assembly and the enthusiasm evinced in the countryside, you will realise how the entire country was keen on this rural welfare work. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister in his speech in the party to the officials who joined the Vishnupur Camp for rural welfare training in January last, admitted the fact that there were people in the country who were very eager and anxious to undertake rural welfare work. A little impetus from the Government can do wonders. It is not that it will involve a heavy expenditure of Government. I am sorry to find that instead of the Department of Rural Reconstruction co-ordinating the activities of all the other nation-building departments towards a well-planned improvement of the rural areas, the Home, the Publicity, the Co-operative, the Industries and even the Revenue Departments have set up different schemes of rural uplift in different directions. There is no co-ordinated, well-planned method in the work. The training of some officers is quite laudable, no doubt. But that is not sufficient. Along with the setting up of Palli Mangal Samities, the Government should start short courses of training classes in every subdivision to train a number of enthusiastic workers who have already evinced keen interest and who are eager to undertake the same. I am sure the Union Boards will be willing to send representative workers from each union at their own cost for receiving training at the centre. The only thing needed is the earnestness of the Government which I am afraid is moving at a snail's pace. In that sense the work of rural reconstruction is going on "silently" as we have been told.

Adult education is one of the main pillars of rural reconstruction. But I am disappointed to find that the Government have provided only Rs. 9,000 in the next year's budget as against Rs. 13,000 of the present year. The crying need of the hour is primary and adult education. Money must be found out for the same. After providing money for these primary needs, the Government will be well advised to provide grants to institutions of higher culture. Half a lakh of rupees has been found available for the Bratachari Society which is certainly a luxury as compared with the needs for primary and adult education. I do not understand how either the Hon'ble Ministers or ourselves will face the people who will pay cess for their education, but at the same time will not get sufficient augmentation grants from the Government to make the scheme of the Free Primary Education Act workable. To my mind we cannot afford to open new grants to any institution other than medical in the metropolis or to any other institution of art, culture and so forth, as long as we have not found out sufficient money to augment the Education cess. The friends opposite will be the loudest to proclaim in the countryside and tell the people that they are paying Education cess but are not getting education free. We must take courage with both hands and tap all sources. About 13 lakhs of rupees of jute cess are being spent on the Calcutta Improvement Trust. It is the money of the jute-growers. This must go to the Primary Education Fund. The cost of administration must be reduced. The stamp duty may be levied on the valuation of suits in the Original Side of the High Court. Terminal taxes may be introduced. Indirect taxation without hitting the agriculturists may be resorted to in the urgency of the circumstances. In reply to my question in the Assembly the Hon'ble Education Minister told us that a scheme for stipends to secondary schools and madrasahs and another scheme for grants to hostels will be introduced in the next year's Budget. But, alas, we find no money provided. Instead we find preferential treatment for Vidyasagar Bani Bhawan. The additional grants of stipends to colleges for Muslim students are extremely inadequate as compared with their needs. The Hon'ble Minister who deals with the students as if they are his own children knows it very well how poor, promising students are compelled to discontinue their studies on account of poverty, how students who have no guardians and relations to live with badly need hostels attached to schools in rural areas. There is a keen desire in the rural areas for the education of girls. A number of girls' schools, middle English, and junior madrasahs are rapidly coming into existence. Needless to say that they are feeder institutions to high schools and colleges and as such self-help of the promoters of these institutions must be encouraged by the Government in the shape of recurring and capital grants to these institutions.

Next I would refer to minor irrigation problems of Eastern Bengal. To take up my district, the district of Bakarganj, first. The Hon'ble

the Chief Minister who recently toured has talked heart to heart with the cultivators, has personally seen the condition of the silted up *khals* which used to serve three-fold purposes—(1) drainage, (2) communication, (3) sources of water-supply—and has personally seen the deterioration of vast fields of agriculture and the water-logged miserable condition of *beel* areas, and the accumulation of water-hyacinth and the scarcity of good drinking water. Tube-wells are not sucessful in most parts of the district and as such the problem of the *khal* is very acute. I will quote an instance only to illustrate how the Government are showing negligence in this matter. In reply to my unstarred question No. 30 in this session the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health was pleased to admit that the silting up of a certain *khal* named Thanda Bibi's Khal in my district has affected the irrigation, sanitation, communication and water-supply of a vast area, as it was investigated and found by an officer of the Irrigation Department and the Assistant Director of Public Health and the only step taken by the Government, as we were told, was that it was proposed that the re-excavation of the *khal* should be taken up as an anti-malarial project and the District Board has ben addressed to include this scheme among the major schemes of the District Board. The department should have taken up the work and not leave it to the District Board. It is a fact that lakhs of rupees of the anti-malaria grant have lapsed as unspent from year to year as no attempts are made to materialise any scheme. I would crave for a reasonable reply on this point. This is a state of thing which we cannot but deplore.

In the Department of Agriculture the Government have been spending money on the top-heavy administration. Instead of electrifying Manipur Farm let us spend money on the drainage system and on other ways and means which will produce tangible results in the quantity and price of agricultural produce. But neither the research work nor the schools of agriculture could give the poor agriculturists immediate relief and save them from the recurring losses they have to undergo in the matter of cultivation either as a profession or as a business. Rural credit must be revived. The poor agriculturists must find money at the time of their needs——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ১৯৪০-৪১ সনের বাজেট বাজেটে দেশ কোরলেও অর্থ সচিব মহাশয় ব্যয়ের বরাদ্দ বিষয়ে কিছু উন্নতি কোরেছেন। কিন্তু বিভাগ, সাধারণ শাসন ব্যবস্থা ও পুলিশ বিভাগের ব্যয় কিছু কিছু কমানো উচিত ছিলো, কিন্তু তিনি তা না কোরে বরং ঐ সকল বিভাগের ব্যয় কিছু বৃদ্ধি কোরেছেন। এবং তার ফলে জনসাধারণ এই শাসনতন্ত্রের রথ পরিচালনার ব্যয়ভার বহন কোরতে কোরতে নিষ্পেষিত হোয়ে যাচ্ছে। তাদের দুরবস্থা নিবারণ ও সুখ সুবিধা বিধানের জন্য যে সমস্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান ও বিভাগ—যথা স্বাস্থ্য

বিভাগ, শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, সমবায় শিল্প, প্রভৃতি, জাতি গঠনমূলক বিভাগের জন্য মাত্র যৎসামান্য বরাদ্দ বৃদ্ধি করা হোয়েছে। প্রথমে সেচ বিভাগের কথা ধরা যাক। এই বিভাগটা বাংলা দেশের পক্ষে বিশেষ প্রয়োজনীয় বিভাগ। বাংলা দেশের নদী নালা সব মজে গিয়ে এবং খাল বিলগুলি ভরাট হ'য়ে গিয়ে দেশটা অস্বাস্থ্যকর হওয়ায় লোক সব অকালে মোরে যাচ্ছে। তাছাড়া দেশের শস্য ক্ষেত্রগুলিও অনুর্বর হোয়ে উঠেছে। এ বিষয়ের প্রতিকারের জন্য কোন ব্যাপক পরিকল্পনা এ বাজেটে নাই। যথা সময়ে বৃষ্টি না হওয়ায় এবং সেচ ব্যবস্থা না করার দরুণ অজন্মায় লোক খেতে পায় না। তবুও এ বিভাগের প্রতি কর্তৃপক্ষের ঔদাসীন্যই আমরা দেখে আসছি। মেদিনীপুর ও ও মুর্শিদাবাদ জেলার যে ২।৪টী পরিকল্পনা ছিলো তাও পরিত্যক্ত হোয়েছে। হাজা মজা নদীর সংস্কারের অভাবে পশ্চিম বঙ্গ ও মধ্য বঙ্গ জন শূণ্য হোতে চোলেছে। পশ্চিম বঙ্গে জন্মমৃত্যুর সংখ্যা গনণায় দেখা যায় জন্মের চেয়ে মৃত্যুর হার বেশী। এই ভাবে জন্ম ও মৃত্যুর সংখ্যা চলতে থাকলে কিছু দিনের মধ্যেই দেশ জনশূণ্য হয়ে পড়বে, এ সব দিকে লক্ষ্য দেবার অবসর মন্ত্রী মণ্ডলীর একেবারেই নাই।

তারপর শিক্ষার কথা। আজ প্রায় দশ বছর হলো—প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা আইন পাশ হোয়েছে, কিন্তু মন্ত্রীমহাশয়রা সেটাকে কার্য্যকরী করবার জন্য বিশেষ কিছু চেষ্টাই কোরছেন না। কয়েকটী জেলায় মাত্র প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা প্রবর্তিত হোয়েছে, তাও সর্ব্বাঙ্গীনভাবে এবং যথেষ্ট পরিমাণে নয়, তা ছাড়া প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা বাধ্যতামূলক ও করা হয়নি। তারপর যে সমস্ত জেলা শিক্ষা-কর দিচ্ছে, তাদের সুবিধার জন্য পাঁচ লক্ষ টাকা মাত্র বরাদ্দ কোরেছেন। বাংলার কোটি কোটি লোকের শিক্ষার জন্য মাত্র একটী টাকা তাঁরা সমিচীন মনে করেন। তারপর তপশিলভুক্ত জাতির শিক্ষার কথা বলি। যখন বৃটিশ গভর্ণমেণ্ট এদের তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির মধ্যে ফেলেছেন, তখন তারা নিশ্চয়ই চিন্তা কোরে দেখেছেন যে শিক্ষায় এবং রাষ্ট্রে পশ্চাৎপদ এই জাতিসকল যদি রাষ্ট্রীয় অধিকার পায়—তাহলে তাদের শিক্ষার সুবিধা হবে এবং তাহা হইলে আমরা এবং দেশে আপন অধিকার রক্ষা করে এই সকল জাতি উন্নত হতে পারবে। এবং Poona Pact তে এই সকল জাতির বিশেষ শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থার কথা উল্লেখ করা আছে। সেইরূপ ব্যবস্থার কথা বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্ট সমিচীন বা কর্ত্তব্য বলে মনে করেন নাই। সাম্প্রদায়িক ভিত্তিতে নিজেদের চাকুরী নিয়ে ব্যস্ত। ফলে দেখা গেছে আমাদের বাংলা দেশে জনপ্রিয় মন্ত্রীরা আজ পর্য্যন্ত বাজেটে মাত্র ৫ লক্ষ টাকা তপশীল জাতির শিক্ষার জন্য বরাদ্দ কোরেছেন, কিন্তু তাও তাঁরা ব্যয় করেন নি, যাহা ব্যয় করছেন মাত্র উচ্চ এবং মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষার জন্য। প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার কোন বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। পশ্চিম বঙ্গের জন্য কোনরূপ ব্যবস্থা করা তাঁরা উচিৎ বলে মনে করে না, বাংলা দেশে Scheduled Castes দের সংখ্যা প্রায় এক কোটি, এই পাঁচ লক্ষ টাকা এইভাবে বরাদ্দ করা কি একটা উপহাসের কথা নয়। আমরা দেখেছি যে যে প্রদেশে কংগ্রেস গভর্ণমেণ্ট হয়েছিল সেখানে তপশীলভুক্ত জাতিদের শিক্ষার জন্য যথেষ্ট ব্যবস্থা হোয়েছিলো—১৯৩৮ ৩৯ সালের মান্দ্রাজ গভর্ণমেণ্টের রিপোর্টে দেখা যায়, তাদের শিক্ষা বাবদ ১১ এণার লক্ষের অধিক টাকা খরচ হোয়েছে। এই রকম বেহার এবং অন্যান্য কংগ্রেস গভর্ণমেণ্ট তপশীলভুক্ত জাতিদের জন্য খরচে কোন রকম কৃপণতা করেন নাই। কিন্তু আমাদের বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের সেদিকে দৃষ্টি মাত্রও নেই।

তারপর আমি সমবায় বিভাগের কথা কিছু বোলছি। ইহা একটা অতি প্রয়োজনীয় বিভাগ। কিন্তু এর অত্যাচারের কলঙ্ক সম্বন্ধে আমাদের সদস্যদের অনেকেই অবগত আছেন। পরিচালনার দোষে এ বিভাগ জনসাধারণের কোন কাজেই আসছে না। তার কারণ কর্তৃপক্ষ এবং রেজিষ্ট্রারের খাম খেয়ালি এ বিভাগে যতটা দেখা যায় তত আর কোন বিভাগে নয়। আমরা জানি যে তাঁর term of service বর্ত্তমান বর্ষের ১০ই এপ্রিল মাসে শেষ হবে। কিন্তু তিনি এমনভাবে নিজের লোকদ্বারা বিভাগটাকে ভর্ত্তি কোরে অপদার্থ করে রেখেছেন যে জনসাধারণের কোন বিশেষ উপকারে আসছেনা। এবং তিনি নিজেই অবসর গ্রহণের অব্যবহিত পূর্ব্বে এমন কতকগুলি সমস্যার সৃষ্টি করেছেন যাতে তাঁর service এর extension এর সুবিধা হয়।

আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টকে অনুরোধ করছি জনসাধারণের সুবিধার জন্য এরূপ লোককে পুনর্নিয়োগ করা কখনই উচিত নয়। এই সম্পর্কে উল্লেখযোগ্য এই যে, Co-operative Bill যাহা পরিষদের এই অধিবেশনে পেশ হওয়ার কথা ছিল তাহাও বোধহয় রেজিষ্ট্রারের service এর extension এর সহিত জড়িত। এ বিভাগটা আমাদের তপশীলভুক্ত জাতির মন্ত্রী দ্বারা পরিচালিত। অথচ Scheduled castes দের প্রয়োজনের সময় তাদের ঋণ দানের বিশেষ সুবিধা নাই। মান্দ্রাজ সরকারের ১৯৩৮-৩৯ সালের রিপোর্টে দেখা যায়, ৭৭ হাজারের অধিক টাকা শুধু তপশীল জাতিদের ঋণ দানের জন্য ব্যয়িত হয়েছে।

ইহার পরে ডাক্তারি এবং জন-স্বাস্থ্য বিভাগের কথা। এ বিভাগ দুইটী আমাদের দেশের লোকের বিশেষ কিছুই উপকার কোরছে না। অথচ ম্যালেরিয়া কালাজ্বর প্রপীড়িত হয়ে বাংলা দেশের লোক অকর্ম্মণ্য ও ভুগে ভুগে ক্ষয় হয়ে যাচ্ছে। আজ পর্য্যন্ত বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট তার কোন উপকার করতে পারলেন না, কারণ সেদিকে তাঁদের খেয়ালই নাই, মাত্র জনসাধারণকে দেখানর জন্য কিছু ব্যবস্থা করেন। লেডি ডাফরিণ্ হাসপাতালের জন্য ২ লক্ষ ৬৫ হাজার টাকার বরাদ্দ কোরেছেন—সে ভালো কথা। যাদবপুর যক্ষ্মা হাসপাতালের জন্যও দশ হাজার টাকা দিয়েছেন, তার জন্য মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে ধন্যবাদ। এইরূপে সহরের ২।১ প্রতিষ্ঠানের সাহায্য করা হয়েছে। কিন্তু বাংলা দেশে যেখানে শতকরা ৯০ জন লোক পল্লীগ্রামে বাস করে সেই পল্লী স্বাস্থ্যের জন্য কোন ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই, কিন্তু যে ম্যালেরিয়ার প্রকোপে দেশটা ধ্বংসপ্রায় হোতে বোসেছে এবং যক্ষ্মার চেয়ে বেশী লোক মারা যাচ্ছে এবং পরে যক্ষ্মায় আক্রান্ত হচ্ছে - সে খাতে মাত্র আড়াই লক্ষ ম্যালেরিয়া নিবারণের পক্ষে কিছুই নয়; তাও এই টাকা ম্যালেরিয়া প্রতিষেধক পরিকল্পনার জন্য। আমরা জানি বর্দ্ধমানের ম্যালেরিয়া নিবারণের পরিকল্পনার কি ফল হয়েছে। ৫ লাখ টাকা খরচ করে কোন রিপোর্ট পাওয়া যায় নাই; গবেষণা আর শেষ হয় না। লাভের মধ্যে যেখানে যে সকল Laboratory এবং কর্ম্মচারীদের জন্য যে সব বাসস্থান নির্ম্মিত হোয়েছিলো সেইগুলিই এখন ম্যালেরিয়ার ডিপোতে পরিণত হোয়েছে। মাত্র আড়াই লক্ষ টাকা এ প্রদেশের ম্যালেরিয়া দূর করার পক্ষে যে কিছুই নয়, একথা আমি খুব জোরের সঙ্গেই বোলতে পারি। গভর্ণমেণ্টের এবং জেলা বোর্ডের যে সকল দাতব্য চিকিৎসালয় আছে সব সময় তাহাতে প্রয়োজনমত ঔষধ থাকে না। ইহা ছাড়া ঐ সকল দাতব্য চিকিৎসালয় দেশের যথেষ্ট নহে, গভর্ণমেণ্টের উচিত প্রত্যেক ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডে একটা করিয়া দাতব্য চিকিৎসালয় স্থাপন করা, টাকার অভাব হইলে ঋণ করেও এই ব্যবস্থা প্রবর্ত্তন করা অবিলম্বে প্রয়োজন। অনেক সময় দেখা যায় যে, যে টাকা যে বিষয়ের জন্য খরচের বরাদ্দ ধরা হয় তা খরচ হয় না। এ বিষয়টা গতকল্য পূর্ব্বতন অর্থ সচিব মহাশয়ের বক্তৃতা থেকে অবগত হোয়েছি।

তারপরে কৃষি বিভাগ। কৃষি বিভাগের প্রয়োজনীয়তা পল্লীর জনগণের পক্ষে যে কতটা অধিক সে বিষয়ে কেউ অবিদিত নন। অনেক জেলাতেই এ বিষয়ের বিশেষ অভাব রয়েছে। বর্ত্তমানে ঢাকা চুচুড়া প্রভৃতিতে যে farm আছে প্রয়োজনের সময় সে সব farm থেকে চাষীরা কোন উপকার পায় না। এই সমস্ত agricultural farms যাতে কৃষকদের প্রকৃত উপকার কোরতে পারে সে দিকে গভর্ণমেণ্টের বিশেষ দৃষ্টি দেওয়া দরকার।

আর একটা বিভাগ রয়েছে ভেটেরীনারী—পশু চিকিৎসা বিভাগ। পশু ব্যয়রামের বিস্তার দিন দিন বেড়ে চলেছে। প্রকৃত চিকিৎসার অভাবে আজ সুস্থ-সবল পশুর চেয়ে রুগ্ন ও শীর্ণ গরুর সংখ্যাই আমাদের দেশে অধিকতর চোখে পড়ে। চাষীদের কৃষিকাজ হয় না, চাষের গরু মরে শেষ হয়ে গেল। সুতরাং এদিকে গভর্ণমেণ্টের নজর দেওয়া কর্ত্তব্য। এবং প্রত্যেক থানার পশু-চিকিৎসালয় স্থাপন করা দরকার। পূর্ত্ত নামে আর একটা বিভাগ আছে এর কাজ কর্ম্ম আমরা বড় একটা দেখতে পাইনে, এবৎসর পূর্ত্ত বিভাগের জন্য যা বরাদ্দ হোয়েছে——

(Here the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I heartily congratulate honestly and sincerely the Hon'ble the Finance Minister, Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, who prepared the Budget in the best way possible in a very short time of his office and with the very limited resource of materials at his disposal. So it is quite natural that there would be some defects.

Sir, looking at the receipt side of the Budget it won't be out of place if we see the income of Bombay generally a little more or less 20 crores, that of Madras some 17 crores, while Bengal being the premier province in India, premier almost in every respect, has got only an amount of income of some 14 crores. It is quite useless to refer to the Budgets of England, France, Japan or America which is beyond our conception, of some thousands of crores.

I cite these only to show how poor we are and how poor is our country.

Now let us see if in any way the income of the Bengal revenue can be increased.

Sir, I think, by abolishing the system of Permanent Settlement that was referred to by Mr. A. R. Siddiqi, a handsome increment in the provincial revenue can be made as the landlords realise in the minimum some 17 to 18 crores of rupees from the *raiyats* and tenants while they pay to the Government treasury only 3½ crores. This is being done at the cost of the Government and of the poor *raiyats*. Let there be a stoppage of it for ever and it is high time for doing so. The net consequences of this abolition would be that the present provincial revenue may be double.

Next, the Government revenue may be increased by adopting a new course of adventure in the field of industry. With respect to industry there are two things:—

(*i*) to encourage people to adopt the course of industry so that the country may flourish and the Government is doing that in various ways;

(*ii*) Government may establish a permanent source of income by starting some farms, mills—cotton or jute, etc.—gradually for the increment of revenue. And by doing that, on the other hand, the unemployment problem so serious before the country can be solved in a more effective way.

Thus by taking some adventurous steps in commerce, in agricultural farms, on scientific lines at a larger scale, by giving an impetus in the line of mines within the province, by imposing taxes on amusements and luxuries, agricultural income over Rs. 5,000, by publishing books

at Government cost for free primary schools or by controlling jute markets and introducing warehouse system and so on, the Government revenue may be attempted to be increased.

Now, Sir, coming to the expenditure side we find that about 54 lakhs more have been estimated this year than that of the last year for nation-building works. Out of this increases—for Civil Works 13½ lakhs, for Irrigation about 6 lakhs—have been estimated. And some of the others are praiseworthy to note, namely, for Public Health 7 lakhs, Medical over 2½ lakhs, Debt Conciliation 5½ lakhs, Education General about 2 lakhs, Co-operative 1 lakh, and so on.

But, Sir, for primary education only 5 lakhs and for adult education only Rs. 9,000 have been provided this year. I need not say anything more than this, that Rs. 4½ lakhs have been urgently felt as necessary for the district of Mymensingh only. Education cess has been imposed there you know, Sir, and the cess is being realised.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. RAJIBUDDIN TARAFDAR: ১৯৪০-৪১ সনের বাজেট আলোচনায় আমি সামান্য দুটো কথা বোলবো। বাজেট তৈরী করবার সময় চিরদিন North Bengal কে বঞ্চিত করা হোয়ে থাকে এবারেও সেইভাবে North Bengal কে বঞ্চিত করা হোয়েছে। আমি অরো অনেকবার এই বাজেট আলোচনায় যোগদান কোরেছি, এবং অনেক বাজেট দেখেছি। সব সময়েই যে সমস্ত দোষ ত্রুটি, আমি দেখি সেই সমস্ত defect বাজেটে এবারেও দেখতে পাইতেছি তার মধ্যে মারাত্মক দোষ হচ্ছে—নর্থ বেঙ্গলকে neglect করা। উত্তর বঙ্গকে এবার এমন কোরে কোন ঠাসা কোরে রাখা হইয়াছে যে তাদের আর উঠবার শক্তি থাকিবে না। আমাদের নর্থ বেঙ্গল থেকে ক্যাবিনেটে দুই জন মন্ত্রী আছেন। তার মধ্যে একজন একেবারে বুড়ো এবং আর একজন তিনি কোন কথা বলেন কিনা জানি না। কাজেই আমাদের পক্ষে দেখবার লোক নাই। সেই জন্য আমরা উত্তর বঙ্গের লোকেরা প্রায় সব সময়ই গভর্ণমেন্টের সকল রকম অনুগ্রহে বঞ্চিত থাকি। ধনবাদী ও দেশের বড় লোকদের সুখ সোয়াস্তি বিধানের জন্য এই বাজেটে অনেক কিছু করা হোয়েছে, কিন্তু দেশের যারা কৃষক ও শিল্পী তাদের সুবিধার জন্য এতে বিশেষ কিছু করা হয় নাই। আমরা অনেক সময় মনে করি—ফাইনান্স মিনিষ্টারও বাজেটের দোষ ত্রুটি আলোচনা করিলে পরবর্ত্তি মিনিষ্টার সতর্ক হবেন। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় ফাইনান্স মিনিষ্টারের পরিবর্ত্তন হোলো, কিন্তু বাজেটের তো কোন পরিবর্ত্তন দেখি না, আবহমান কাল থেকে গভর্ণমেন্টের যে নীতি চোলে আসছে তার কোন পরিবর্ত্তন হয় নাই। আমি গভর্ণমেন্টকে অনুরোধ করি—যদি বাস্তবিক পক্ষে দেশের কল্যাণ করবার তাঁদের ইচ্ছা থাকে তাহলে সর্ব্বাগ্রে কৃষকদের প্রতি দৃষ্টি দিতে হবে। তাদের সুখ দুঃখে ভরসা দিলেই চোলবে না। কচুরিপানা তুলেই দেশের সমস্ত কল্যাণ সাধিত হোয়েছে একথা যারা ভাবেন তাঁরা যে খুব বুদ্ধিমান তা বোলতে পারি না। গত বৎসর কচুরিপানা তোলা হোলো, কিন্তু আবার উহা দেশে ছড়িয়া পড়িয়াছে, দেশ যে তিমিরে সেই তিমিরেই রয়ে গেছে, এখন যদি কেউ আবার গিয়ে দেখেন, তাহলে দেখতে পাবেন আবার তেম্নি কোরে নদী নালা খাল বিল কচুরিপানায় ভোরে গেছে। কোন বুদ্ধিমানের মাথা থেকে যে এই স্কীম বেরিয়েছিলো তা জানিনে। থাক এ বিষয়ে আর বেশী বোলতে চাই না।

কৃষিকার্য্যের উন্নতির জন্য চেষ্টা করা হবে এরূপ ভরসা দেওয়া হোয়েছে, কৃষির উন্নতির জন্য গভর্ণমেন্ট হোতে যে সব খরচ করা হোয়েছে তাদ্বারা কৃষকদের কোন কাজ হবে না। গোটা কয়েক কৃষি বিদ্যালয় খোলা হোয়েছে। তাতে গোটা কয়েক ভদ্রলোকের ছেলেকে চাকরী দেওয়া ছাড়া কৃষকদের

বা কৃষিকার্য্যের কোন উপকার হবে বোলে মনে হয় না। কৃষকদের উপকার কোরতে হোলে প্রথমত দিতে হবে—কৃষকদের কৃষিকার্য্যের উপযোগী পুঁজি। দ্বিতীয়তঃ তাদের অজ্ঞতা দূর কোরতে হবে। তারপর তাদের ঋণমুক্তির ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে। (Here the member having reached the time limit resumed his seat.)

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not like to discuss about the Budget too much, but I am sorry for the position of the Finance Minister who has been only newly enshrined in this portfolio. Sir, I am sorry that nobody during this discussion has congratulated the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. But I, on behalf of the Scheduled Castes whose voices are too faint to be heard by anybody in this province, I wholeheartedly congratulate the Finance Minister for his successful framing of the Budget—successful in this respect that much has been done for my community which has been niggardly treated during the last three years. I do not like to discuss the general matters too much as I have said. I shall only say my own saying and begin that saying by quoting a famous couplet from a poem:—

"Oh, tell me not in mournful numbers
Life is but an empty dream"

Sir, this is our life. The life of all of us is but a mournful dream. It has not seen the day, now has it seen the light. When a man's life becomes despaired of for the future, when sweetness of the earth is gone, men become destitute of every hope and then men rely on the grace of God for their salvation. Sir, my community does not aspire for anything at the hands of this Government. It has been grovelling under darkness from time immemorial and it can wait a few years more. Sir, this is our life, lives of millions of hungry, toiling scheduled caste people. The Britishers were telling us that India's salvation, especially the salvation of the neglected Scheduled Castes or the untouchables, would come through the Reforms; that reformation has now come, but, Sir, what is the result? We have got this precious, voluminous and beautiful, picturesque book—"The Working of Two Years of Provincial Autonomy in Bengal". But, Sir, what do we find? We find that the Scheduled Caste people are being ignored everywhere. I shall quote from the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the special Minister for Education's speech. Now, what does he say about the help that is to be given to the Scheduled Caste people. Sir, this is what he said in answer to a question of Mr. Monmohan Das: "If I were to earmark Rs. 5 lakhs for the Scheduled Castes alone, I would have to set apart for the Muslims—they are 30 times as big a community—Rs. 1,50 lakhs simply for the cause of Muslim education and so on and so forth. It will arouse a fight among all the communities and the Education Budget will dwindle down into nothing and you will have nothing to

expend for other purposes for which Government has to exist." I am sorry, Sir, for the mathematical brain of the Premier of this province. The whole population of Bengal is 5 crores 11 lakhs and out of that 2 crores 75 lakhs are Muslims, and 92 lakhs are Scheduled Caste people. If any mathematican is here, he would say that it is only just one-third of the Muslim population. Sir, how the Hon'ble the Chief Minister can calculate that it is 30 times—if three can be increased to thirty, ten times more—what can we expect from this Government? Sir, this is the result which has accrued to my community, and we cannot expect anything when the Hon'ble the Chief Minister has stated so much for our benefit.

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Maulvi IDRIS AHMED MIA: মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, পূর্ব্বে বোলে রাখা ভাল যে মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহোদয়কে এই বৎসরের বাজেটের বিষয়ে বেশী দোষ দেওয়া উচিৎ নয় কেন না তিনি বায়োস্কোপের মত এগারোস্কোপের কাপড়ের উপরের ছবিমাত্র। প্রকৃত অভিনয় কোরেছেন ১১জন মন্ত্রী মিলে।

আপনারা আরব্যোপন্যাসের হাজার রাত্রির কাহিনী অনেকেই পোড়েছেন। বর্ত্তমানে আমাদের বাংলাদেশের বাজেটের কাহিনী অর্থাৎ ১৯৩৭ সালের ১লা এপ্রেল হইতে ১৯৩৯ সালের শেষ পর্য্যন্ত হাজার দিনের গভর্ণমেণ্টের জমা খরচের দু একটি গল্প শুনুন। দেশের গরীব প্রজাদের ডাল ভাত, মোটা কাপড় ও প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার জোগাড় করিয়া দিবার কথা সকল মন্ত্রী মহোদয় ভোটের সময় বলিলেও আমরা আশা করি নাই যে আলিবাবার মত তাঁরা কোথা থেকে ধন কুড়িয়ে আনবেন কিম্বা আলাউদ্দিনের প্রদীপের মত আশ্চর্য্য কিছু কোরবেন। হতভাগা চাষী আলনাস্কারের মত ডিমের ব্যবসা কোরে ছানা ফুটিয়ে বিক্রি করে বিশেষ লাভবান হোয়ে শেষে বড় মানুষ হোয়ে তার স্ত্রীর উপর রাগ কোরে লাথি মেরে ডিম ভাঙ্গার চিন্তাও করি নাই। তবে দিন গুজরানের জন্য আমরা আলনাস্কারের মত ১১টি ডিম লইয়া (১১জন মন্ত্রী) ব্যবসা সুরু কোরে ছিলাম। আশা ছিল এই সব ডিমের ছা বাচ্চা অর্থাৎ মন্ত্রীদের কাজ কাম দ্বারা বাংলাদেশের গরীব চাষাদের ধন বৃদ্ধি হইবে কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় যদিও ডিম এখনও ভাঙ্গে নাই কিন্তু ছাবাচ্চা না হইয়া আমাদের ব্যবসারও কোন উন্নতি হয় নাই।

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, আপনি Man behind the Plough (লাঙ্গলের পিছনের চাষী) নামক একটি বড় বই লিখেছেন। কিন্তু তাহাতে আপনি বাংলার পাঁচকোটি প্রজার প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের খরচের ব্যায় বরাদ্দের হিসাব দেন নাই। গত চার বৎসর ধরিয়া কত টাকা প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার জন্য বাংলার সদাশয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়রা বরাদ্দ এবং খরচ করার ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন সেই অধ্যায়টা বাদ দিয়াছেন। আপনার সুবিধার জন্য আমি মোটামুটি তার একটা হিসাব তৈয়ারী কোরেছি।

নূতন গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠিত হওয়ার আগে ১৯৩৬-৩৭ সনে পূর্ব্বেকার আমলাতন্ত্র গভর্ণমেণ্ট নিম্ন শিক্ষার জন্য যাহা ব্যয় করিয়াছিলেন নূতন গভর্ণমেণ্ট ১৯৩৭-৩৮ সালের বাজেটে প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার জন্য তারচেয়ে অধিক ব্যয় বরাদ্দ ধরিয়াছিলেন ৭৮,৫৫৪ টাকা। তার পর বছর অর্থাৎ ১৯৩৮-৩৯ সনে পূর্ব্ব বছর অপেক্ষা মাত্র ৫৯,২০২ টাকা এবং তার পর বৎসর দয়া কোরে বেশী বোরলেন ২২,১৪০ টাকা। আর বর্ত্তমান বৎসর ও আগামী বৎসরের হিসাব না দেওয়াই ভাল, কারণ প্রদীপের নীচে আঁধারের মত দেখাবে যে, আপনি যে ব্যবস্থাপক পরিষদের সভাপতিরূপে চাষার

দুঃখদরদের যে অসাধারণ কাতর কাহিনী বর্ণনা কোরেছেন তাদের জন্য বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট ছাই জন্য কি কোরেছেন? উত্তর—তেলা মাথায় তেল দেওয়ার মত বড় লোকদের নানা কাজে নানা সুবিধা করবার ব্যবস্থা করবার বাহাদুরি আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণ খুব অর্জ্জন কোরেছেন।

আমি আমার দলের বন্ধুগণকে এসব কথা খুব গভীরভাবে চিন্তা কোরে দেখতে বলি। খাঁটি মুসলমান হিসাবে আপনারা নামাজের সময় ধর্ম্মবাণী সকলেই পড়েন ও নমাজ পড়বার সময় বলেন "খোদা মানুষের ভালমন্দ কাজের বিচার কেয়ামত অর্থাৎ শেষের বিচার দিন করিবেন।" আপনারা কি মনে ভাবেন না যে একদিন খোদাতালা আপনাদের সকলের নিকটই কাঙ্গাল গরীব এতিমের দেওয়া ধন অপরের কাজে খরচ কোরেছেন বা কোরতে সম্মতি দিয়েছেন এর হিসেব নেবেন? হাদিসের কথা কি ভুলে গেছেন প্রত্যেকেই তার অধীনস্থ জীবের মঙ্গলামঙ্গলের জবাবদিহি দিতে হবে; এমন কি রাখালকেও তার ছাগল, ভেড়া, গরু, বাছুরের জন্য জবাবদিহি দিতে হবে।

বাজেটের বিষয় আলোচনা করিতে গেলে, গরীবের উপার্জ্জিত ধনের গরীবের মুখের আহার আলকলতা (স্বর্ণলতার) মত বড় লোকের খরচের জন্য তুলিয়া দিবার কুব্যবস্থার রদবদল করার কথা একটু বোলতে গেলেই কবির ভাষায় বলা হয় "ছুয়োনা ছুয়োনা ওটি লজ্জাবতী লতা"। অর্থাৎ গভর্ণমেণ্টের ১৩।১৪ কোটি টাকার জমাখরচ এই রকমের জিনিষ যে ছুইলেই বা তাহার সম্বন্ধে রদবদল কোরলেই সব নষ্ট হোয়ে যাবে। কিন্তু এখন দেখিতেছি এটা লতা জাতীয় বা ফসল জাতীয় গাছই নহে—মাত্র কচুরিপানা। গভর্ণমেণ্টের ছোট বড় কর্ম্মচারী সকলেই এটাকে লইয়া টানা হেঁচরা কোর্ছে, কিন্তু এ নষ্ট হয় নাই। কেবল গভর্ণমেণ্টের আইন সভার মেম্বরগণ ইহার সুগঠন কোর্ত্তে গেলেই সব নষ্ট হোয়ে যাবে। অনেক আলোচনা আন্দোলনের পর মাঝখানে কয়েকটি কমিটি করা হোয়েছিল, গভর্ণমেণ্টের জমা খরচ সভায় পেশ হওয়ার আগে পরীক্ষা করবার জন্য। কিন্তু সেগুলিকে একটা প্রহসন বোললেও অত্যুক্তি হয় না। শিক্ষা কমিটির মেম্বার হিসাবে আমি নিজেই দেখিছি সেগুলি কানার হাতি দেখার মত। এক একটা কমিটিতে জমা খরচের অংশ বিশেষের বাজে কতকগুলি বিষয় পেশ করা হোয়েছিল মাত্র। লেজ নাই মাথা নাই শুধু হাতের আঙ্গুল আর মাথার চুল। এ অদ্ভুত জীবের পরিচয় কি দিব?

আমাদের দলের মাননীয় বন্ধুদের এ অবস্থায় কি করা উচিৎ? বন্ধুগণ আপনাদের হাতে যে ক্ষমতা আছে আপনারা সেই ক্ষমতার সদ্ব্যবহার করুন। ভূতপূর্ব্ব অর্থসচিব মাননীয় মিষ্টার সরকার মহাশয় তাঁর পদ ইস্তফা দিবার সময় বোলে ছিলেন যে Coalition Party (সম্মিলিত দল) এত শক্তিশালী হোয়ে উঠেছে যে মন্ত্রীদিগকে পার্টির নির্দ্দেশ অনুযায়ী কাজ কোর্ত্তে হয়। ১১জন মন্ত্রীর ভুলভ্রান্তি ও দুর্ব্বলতা সংশোধন করার জন্য আমি পার্টির মেম্বরদের দেখাইতে বলি তাঁদের প্রকৃত শক্তি। প্রয়োজন হোলে তাঁরা বাজেট পাশের সময় ছাঁটাই প্রস্তাব (Economy cut) গ্রহণ কোরে বাজেট সংশোধিত করুন এবং এজন্য প্রয়োজন হোলে তাঁরা বিনা এলাউন্সে কাজ করিতে প্রস্তুত হউন। আমি সদাসর্ব্বদা প্রস্তুত আছি।

বন্ধুগণ দুদিন আগে মহরমের করুণ আত্মত্যাগের কাহিনী আপনারা স্মরণ কোরেছেন। মিথ্যার প্রতিবাদের জন্য ও সত্যের আদর্শকে অক্ষুন্ন রাখার জন্য যে হজরৎ এমাম হোসেন হাসেন প্রাণ বিসর্জ্জন দিয়েছিলেন তাঁহাদের পিতা ইসলামের খলিফা আমিরুল মোমেনিন হজরত আলি বোলেছেন —যার বাপ মা মোরেছে সে প্রকৃত দীন এতিম নয়, যার বিদ্যাবুদ্ধি নেই সেই প্রকৃত পক্ষে এতিম দীন। আজ বাংলাদেশের কোন কোন জেলায় শতকরা ৯৬ জন, কোথাও শতকরা ৯৫ জন, কোথাও শতকরা ৯০ জন লোক মূর্খ। হজরত আলির বর্ণিত এই মূর্খ এতিমদের উপার্জ্জিত ধন দৌলত বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের খাজনা খানা ভর্ত্তি অথচ তাঁদের প্রাথমিক শিক্ষার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট যেরূপ হোমিওপ্যাথিক ডোজের ব্যবস্থা কোরেছেন এর কি আবশ্যকতা আছে বুঝতে পারি না। কিন্তু আমি এতিমের ধনের এইরূপ অপব্যবহার না করার জন্য সকলকে সাবধান কোরে দিচ্ছি—এই পাপের জন্য কঠোর শাস্তি ভোগের কঠোর বাণী কোরাণে আছে।

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, I rise to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister on his presenting the new Budget after due caution. The attention and foresight that have been concentrated and applied to the present cataclysm which has overtaken the world are really very much praiseworthy. The Budget ought to be a balanced one and an imaginary Budget should not be prepared and presented, based on the artificial prosperity due to present war conditions. I congratulate him because he has been able to find at least some money for the nation-building departments, but thereby I do not mean to say that that is adequate. I admit that the amounts that have been provided are merely trifles and that these merely mean tinkering with the problems. But who is to blame for that? Is the Hon'ble Finance Minister, who is subjected to severe criticism on the floor of this House, to blame for the work of each individual department, which has failed to present its claim in proper time to the Finance Department for scrutiny and inclusion in the Budget? Every department has got its own responsibility, in the matter. We have heard the ex-Finance Minister say that the provisions which were made during the last three years have not been spent for the purposes for which they were sanctioned. But I ask why, during his time, he did not attempt to send a requisition to the departments concerned to send in their claims in due time to his department, so that Government might undertake those schemes. The ex-Finance Minister has also pointed out that provisions in the Budget for some of the nation-building departments should not be made unless and until there is a comprehensive scheme ready. But who is to blame? What was he doing for the last three years? Why did he not call for the schemes of water-supply? Where was he then? Now he comes and says that Government have failed to spend the money for the purpose for which it was sanctioned. We admit, Sir, that the increased provisions under certain heads of expenditure in the nation-building departments are not adequate, and we can also say that they amount to merely tinkering with the vastness of the problem. By way of suggestion as it has been already suggested, I can speak to the Hon'ble Minister for Education that the plea of want of funds is nothing. Money is ample. We are not prepared to take the warning from the Leader of the European Group, that the taxation should not be made in such a way as its burden might fall on the urban area? Money flows from the rural area to the urban area, and, therefore, money must be found out from urban area. Some people die and some starve, while others live in palatial houses. The people of Bengal and the representatives of the rural Bengal here are not prepared to see such conditions. So I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Education Minister to the fact that the jute cess which has been diverted to the Improvement Trust, should be earmarked for the education of the rural people of Bengal which is

their legitimate dues. Money will not be wanting. The note of warning of the European Group that urban areas should not be taxed is wholly unjustified. The rich people have been sucking so long the life-blood of rural Bengal. The representatives of rural Bengal here will not tolerate for a moment such a state of affairs and are not prepared to see the wretched condition of the people of Bengal any longer to be ignored in such a way. Now, with regard to Agriculture, there is still much more to be done in that direction also. Agricultural Demonstration Farms should be established at least in every thana. Why Government have not attempted even to provide grazing fields——

(Here the member having reached the time limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. B. MUKHERJEE: Mr. Speeker, Sir, এ বৎসর যখন Budget পেশ হয় তখন আশা করেছিলাম যে এতে জাতি গঠনমূলক সুস্পষ্ট কোন নূতন পরিকল্পনা দেখতে পাব, কিন্তু বহু গবেষণা করে দেখা গেল এর ভিতর কোন নূতন নীতি বা পরিকল্পনা নেই, এতে মাত্র তিনটী নীতি দেখতে পেয়েছি—একটী গড্ডালিকা নীতি আর একটী আশ্রিত বাৎসল্য নীতি এবং আর একটী দাতব্য নীতি এই তিনটী নীতির দ্বারা বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেন্টের আর্থিক ব্যাপার পরিচালিত হচ্ছে।

গড্ডালিকা নীতির মানে হচ্ছে শিক্ষা, স্বায়ত্তশাসন প্রভৃতি ব্যাপারে আমলাতন্ত্রের আমলে বাংলা দেশকে যেভাবে ধ্বংসের পথে এগিয়ে আনা হোয়েছে, অর্থাৎ সমস্ত গ্রামবাসীদের স্বার্থ সম্পূর্ণভাবে neglect করা হয়েছে এবং ধনবানদের সম্পত্তি রক্ষা করা এবং তাদের লাভের অংশে কোন রকম ঘা না পড়ার যে সেই নীতিকে অনুসরণ করার নাম হচ্ছে গড্ডালিকা নীতি। এটাই বিশেষভাবে বর্ত্তমান Budget এ গভর্ণমেন্ট অনুসরণ কোরেছেন। তারপর যখন তাঁরা Nation Building এর নাম কোরে মস্ত বড় বড় কথা বলে থাকেন সেখানে দেখতে পাওয়া যায় তাঁরা দুটী নীতির অনুসরণ কোরেছেন, প্রথমটী হচ্ছে নিজেদের party র প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলিকে doles দেওয়া বা দাতব্য বিতরণ। দ্বিতীয় নীতি হচ্ছে কৃষক ও জনসাধারণের মঙ্গল করবার নাম কোরে নূতন নূতন বিভাগ খোলা এবং সেখানে কতকগুলি চাকুরীর ব্যবস্থা করা; এই নীতিকে আমি আশ্রিত এবং আত্মীয় বাৎসল্য নীতি বলি। এই তিনটী নীতি ছাড়া আর কোন নীতিই Budget এর ভিতর দেখতে পাওয়া যায় না। তাঁরা মস্ত বড় বড় কথা বলেন National building সম্বন্ধে। কিন্তু বর্ত্তমানে যে প্রকার প্রাদেশিক স্বায়ত্তশাসন দেওয়া হোয়েছে তার ভিতর দিয়ে Government of India Act Nation building সম্বন্ধে কোন provision রাখেন নি। আমি বুঝতে পারতাম Finance Minister এর কথা, অন্ততঃপক্ষে তাঁর প্রতি সহানুভূতি প্রকাশ কোরতে পারতাম যদি তিনি তাঁর বিবৃতিতে একথা উল্লেখ কোরতেন, সাহস কোরে যে বর্ত্তমান অবস্থায় Provincial Autonomy র ভিতর দিয়ে Nation build করা অসম্ভব। Nation build করা যেতে পারে Complete Fiscal Autonomy এর ভিতর দিয়ে,—জনসাধারণের প্রতিভূরূপে; কিন্তু এসম্বন্ধে কোন উল্লেখ তাঁর বিবৃতির ভিতর নেই। এমন কি Nyiemer Award সম্বন্ধে কোন Protest এর ভিতর নেই। এর ভিতর কেবল দেখতে পাওয়া যায় পীড়নের নীতি।

আড়াই হাজার টাকা পুলিশ Budget এ কমিয়ে দেখানো হোয়েছে কতখানি ব্যয় সঙ্কোচ কোরেছেন গভর্ণমেন্ট, কিন্তু সঙ্গে সঙ্গে General Administration, ফিভার বিভাগ ও জেল বিভাগের জন্য ও War expenses বাবদ খরচ বাড়ানো হোয়েছে ১৮ লক্ষ টাকার উপর।

এই সমস্ত জিনিষগুলির পিছনে উদ্দেশ্য রোয়েছে, যে ধূমায়িত অসন্তোষ বাংলার সহর ও গ্রামে প্রজ্জলিত হোয়ে উঠেছে এবং যে অসন্তোষের প্রতিকার তাঁরা কোরতে পারেন না, সেই অসন্তোষকে দাবিয়ে রাখবার জন্য আরও জেল চাই আরও মেজিস্ট্রেট চাই, এইরকম কোরে তাঁরা repression চালাচ্ছেন এটাই হোচ্ছে এর ভিতরের সব চেয়ে বড় জিনিষ।

দেখানো হচ্ছে যেহেতু এ বৎসর দুর্ভিক্ষ হবে না অতএব Agricultural grant, Industrial grant এবং Irrigation grant কমানো হোয়েছে। অথচ গত বৎসরের যে সমস্ত scheme ছিল, যেমন কুমিল্লা জেলা গোমতী স্কীম প্রভৃতি, সেগুলির জন্য কিছুই ব্যয় করা হয় নি। গত বৎসর খাল সংস্কারের জন্য কয়েকটী স্থানে কৃষকেরা বিপুল আন্দোলন করেন—সেগুলির ব্যয়ও সামান্য কিন্তু গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে কৃষকদের সম্মিলিত চীৎকারেও কর্ণপাত করেন না তার প্রমাণ এই বাজেটে সে সম্বন্ধে কোনও provision নেই। আমি কয়েকটী উল্লেখ করচি—রংপুর জেলার কুড়িগ্রামের আন্দোলন, ডায়মণ্ড হারবার অঞ্চলে Sluice Gate এবং হুগলী জেলার খাল সংস্কারের আন্দোলন। এই Budget কে Deficit Budget বলা হোয়েছে কিন্তু কোথায় deficit। যে সমস্ত জিনিষগুলি public utility বলে ধরা হয় তার জন্য প্রায় ৫ কোটী টাকা ব্যয় ধরা হোয়েছে কিন্তু শেষ পর্য্যন্ত হয় ত ৪ কোটী টাকা খরচ হবে। এর ভিতর অন্ততঃ ৩ কোটী টাকা office maintain কোরতে খরচ হবে। বাকী টাকাটা সম্বন্ধে হয় ত বলা হবে অসাধারণ, আমাদের ব্যয়কুণ্ঠা, আমরা ১ কোটী টাকা বাঁচিয়ে রেখেছি। বৎসরের পর বৎসর গভর্ণমেণ্ট এই নীতি অনুসরণ করবেন। কয়েক কোটী টাকা বরাদ্দ করা বাজেটের মধ্যে জাতির কল্যাণের নামে এবং তার অধিকাংশই ব্যয় না করা। চমৎকার কৌশল জনসাধারণকে প্রতারিত করবার। একই সঙ্গে বলা হয় গত বৎসরে কি অপূর্ব্ব মিতব্যয়িতা দেখানো হয়েছে এবং এ বৎসর কি ঔদার্য্য দেখানো হয়েছে—বৎসরের পর বৎসর এই যে অদ্ভুত নীতি এর পিছনে উদ্দেশ্য হচ্ছে public এর নিকট বিজ্ঞাপিত করা তাঁরা কত কম খরচ কোরেছেন গত তিন বৎসরে। অথচ প্রতি বৎসরই বিজ্ঞাপিত করেছেন জাতি কল্যাণে কি অপূর্ব্ব উদ্যোগ Budget এর মধ্যে। এদের কলাকৌশল অপূর্ব্ব। মোটের উপর দেখতে পাই অসাধারণ এঁদের mentality.

কিন্তু এঁরা দেশবাসীর জন্য কোনই চিন্তা করেন না। বর্ত্তমান War এ যে সুযোগ পাওয়া গিয়েছে তারা যদি সেই সুযোগ গ্রহণ কোরে jute এর Restriction কোরতেন এবং complete control না কোরেও Bonded warehouse এর ব্যবস্থা কোরতেন তাহোলেও তাঁরা ৩।৪ কোটী টাকা পেতে পারতেন এবং এই টাকার দ্বারা তাঁরা Nation building এর কাজে জোর দিতে পারতেন।

(Here the member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Maulvi ABUL HASHIM: Sir, I have no regard for and confidence in any game of chance and the method of selecting speakers through lottery is not agreeable to my taste. But I thank God for giving me my 5 minutes and I must make the best use of it.

Sir, I congratulate the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy for the courage and perseverance he has shown in accepting his new duties under such circumstances as we find him confronted with to-day. We have heard with profound attention the learned speech of our ex-Finance Minister. It is right that in a parliamentary system of Government, it is not very

unusual for one, all on a sudden, to find himself from the position of being criticized to that of being competent to criticize. But, Sir, it is extraordinarily unusual for honest people to do bad things and then take the first opportunity to throw the responsibilities on others' shoulders. As our most honourable friend Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The Right Hon'ble or the Most Reverend!) (Laughter.) yesterday remarked that with the dignity of a Professor of Economics Mr. Sarker made a statement in which, while criticising the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy with regard to his assumption regarding the apprehended slump that may come after the war is over, he talked of lack of farsight, confusion of thought and all those things. But, Sir, I have no doubt that his prophecies will have the same fate now as they had in the past with regard to his statement to the effect that there should be no war in the past year, while presenting his own Budget. Knowing Mr. Suhrawardy as I do, I am sure that he has done the best thing one could possibly do, and considering the circumstances in which he had to accept his new duties, I do not know how much of the responsibilities of the Budget can be apportioned to him.

Sir, the Leader of the Opposition in his Budget speech, while admitting the complications created by the war, said that the Hon'ble the Finance Minister could, if he so desired, paint a less gloomy picture. I must admit that there is much force in his contention. I find no attempt has been made to increase our revenues and the expenditure appears to me somewhat extravagant. Year before last on this occasion, while discussing the Budget, I remarked: "I shall not be satisfied that this Government is sincere about doing anything for the amelioration of the masses, unless and until I find them coming forward with a bold scheme of taxation for screwing up our revenues up to our legitimate needs." I entertain the same grievance even now. Sir, as some of my friends before me have said ever since the beginning of time and civilisation village people by their toils and sufferings have been building white houses, gardens, good roads and hospitals in cities. Now, Sir, I think that citizens in towns should come forward to help us in doing a good turn to our village friends. It is their sacred duty, a paying back of debts accumulated through centuries and ages. Sir, I am not one of those visionaries who believe that things can be done by the touch of a magic wand. The present financial position, if it remains as it is, cannot help us in going forward. Sir, we must resort to taxes. Let us tax those who have for the benefit of those who have not. I admit that in the present circumstances it may not be possible for any Government to take up any long range scheme for nation-building, but, Sir,——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, unlike other previous occasions I rise to congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister. I congratulate him for presenting a most practical and businesslike Budget. I congratulate him for his able, concise, terse and to the point Budget speech. I congratulate him for his brutal frankness in admitting the shortcomings of the Budget. The available resources of the Government have been husbanded between the different departments as best and prudently as could be done under the circumstances. Indeed, Sir, it is certainly an achievement for any one to produce such a Budget under so many handicaps. Whatever shortcomings it has can hardly be laid at the door of the Hon'ble Finance Minister alone. Government as a whole is responsible for those. We as supporters of the Government will be getting ample opportunities elsewhere——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Where?

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: In the Party Meeting. (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: On a point of order, Sir. Have you noticed, Sir, that Dr. Sanyal is in this House?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is a point of disorder, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It is a point of order in order that the disorder may be stopped. (Laughter.)

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: As I was saying, we will get opportunities elsewhere to come to grips with those shortcomings, but Sir, I think, I must draw the pointed attention of the Government to one fact here in this very House. Even this year's Budget does not contain anything which goes to show that the Government is serious about fulfilling its pledges to the people regarding the introduction of free primary education. Rupees five lakhs that have been provided will hardly be sufficient to supplement the cess income of a single district, viz., Mymensingh. Sir, we have waited much in this respect; we are not going to wait any more. We will deem it our sacred duty to resist the entire Education Budget unless Government see their way to introduce free primary education at once throughout the province.

Sir, a chorus of opposition has been raised at the prospect of taxation in this House. Mostly these are the clamours of persons who are best able to bear taxation. I welcome taxation provided it falls on those who are able to bear it and provided the proceeds are entirely spent in real nation-building activities. There must not be any attempt only to confine it in brick and mortar and squander it away in salaries of high

officials. How can the nation as a whole prosper if there be no willingness to contribute to a national coffer, I ask Government to take courage in both hands and to proceed at once to tap all possible sources of revenues. Rs. 50,000 provided for small irrigation will prove a boon to the rural people. We wish more money will be forthcoming in future for this purpose. Government have taken up the control of jute cultivation. It is a very well-known measure which has been acclaimed by the rural people as a whole. But this is one-sided control, and we think that this one-sided control over production will not help in achieveing the desired result. Government must simultaneously make up its mind to control jute industries so that there may not be in future any gentlemen's agreement to victimise the cultivators of Bengal by keeping down the prices. Let the Government introduce at once the system of licence which will be issued to jute mills only when they fulfil the obligations of elaborate rules framed for the purpose. By such and other measures let Government control fully the jute industries.

Sir, I once more congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for the able Budget that he has produced and wish him whole-heartedly to continue in his present office for the rest of our term in the Legislature.

Maulana Md. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI: Mr. Speaker মহোদয়! বাংলা সরকারের ১৯৪০-৪১ সনের আয়-ব্যয়ের হিসাব পাঠ করিয়া অন্যান্য বৎসরের ন্যায় এই বারও জনসাধারণের অন্তরে নৈরাশ্যের সঙ্গে-সঙ্গে নূতন কর স্থাপনের সংবাদে ত্রাসের সঞ্চার হইয়াছে। কারণ বাঙ্গালার জমিদারগণ গভর্ণমেন্টকে রাজস্ব-বাবদ বার্ষিক ৩ কোটি ১০ লক্ষ টাকা দিয়াই অব্যাহতি পাইয়া থাকেন। কিন্তু বাংলার ৪॥ কোটি প্রজা ও শ্রমজীবিরা জমিদারদিগকে বন্দোবস্তি মূলে খাজনা দিয়া থাকে বৎসরে ১৭ কোটি টাকা। এতদতিরিক্ত আবওয়াব আইনত উঠিয়া যাইয়া থাকিলেও কার্য্যতঃ এখনও সেই বাবং প্রজাবর্গকে আরও দিতে হয় ৮ কোটি টাকা, অর্থাৎ বাংলার প্রজাদিগকে কর-স্বরূপ মোট ৩৭॥ কোটি টাকা দিতে হয়। ইহা ছাড়া মহাজনগণের ২০০ কোটি টাকা ঋণের দরুণ বার্ষিক সুদ দিতে হয় ২৫ কোটি টাকা সর্ব্ব-মোট ৬২॥ কোটি টাকার দায়িত্ব প্রজাসাধারণের ঘাড়ে চাপিয়া আছে। শিক্ষা-করের চাপও বার্ষিক ২ কোটি টাকার কম হইবে না। চৌকিদারী টেক্স আছে ইহার উপরে ফাও।

এইরূপ গুরু কর-ভার মস্তকে চাপিয়া থাকিবার পরও মাননীয় নব-অর্থসচিবের Budget বক্তৃতায় নূতন টেক্সের আভাস পাইয়া বাংলার প্রজাসাধারণ আতঙ্কে শিহরিয়া উঠিবে, ইহা সম্পূর্ণই স্বাভাবিক।

মানুষ আশাবাদী। বাংলার প্রজা প্রত্যেক বৎসর আইন-সভার Budget অধিবেশনের সময় আশায় বুক বাঁধিয়া থাকে যে, এই বৎসর বুঝি তাহাদের ভোটে নির্ব্বাচিত আইন-সভার সদস্যগণ কিছু একটা শুভ সমাচার লইয়া April মাসের শেষে স্ব স্ব কেন্দ্রে ফিরিবেন। কিন্তু সদস্যগণ দেশে ফিরিয়া যখন শুনাইবেন যে তাঁহারা মন্ত্রীদল তথা গভর্ণমেন্টের খোশকতা করিয়া প্রজাসাধারণের প্রতি নূতন টেক্স স্থাপনের বার্ত্তা বহন করিয়া আনিয়াছেন তখন সেই হতভাগ্য দরিদ্র প্রজাসাধারণের প্রাণে কিরূপ ভাবের সঞ্চার হইবে এবং তাহারা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধিদিগকে কিরূপভাবে অভ্যর্থনা জ্ঞাপন করিবে তাহা অনুমান করা কিছুই মুস্কিল হইবে না। সদস্যগণ লীগের পক্ষে সংখ্যাধিক্যের জোরে কংগ্রেস ও কৃষক প্রজার সদস্যদিগকে পুরুতররূপে পরাজিত করিয়া বিজয়ের নিশান হস্তে দেশে ফিরিয়াছেন ইহাই হইবে তাঁহাদের গৌরবের নিদর্শন।

যাহা-হউক, এখন মূল বাজেটের প্রতি লক্ষ্য করা হউক। ১৯২৯ সালের পূর্বে বঙ্গীয় আইন-সভায় বাজেট দৃষ্টে দেখা যায়, তখন ৯।১০ কোটি টাকার মধ্যেই বার্ষিক আয়-ব্যায়ের কার্য্য চলিয়াছিল। এখন ব্যায়ের পরিমাণ ৪।৫ কোটি টাকা বৃদ্ধি পাইয়াছে। কিন্তু কাজের দিকে দৃষ্টি সঞ্চালন করিলে দেশের অবস্থার তারতম্যের বিশেষ কিছুই পরিচয় পাওয়া যায় না। দেশের সুখ-শান্তি, শিক্ষা ও সভ্যতা, কৃষি ও শিল্পের উন্নতি এবং দেশের আর্থিক সচ্ছলতা ইত্যাদি কিছুই দেখা যায় না। বরং করের চাপ ও অর্থ সংকটের এই দুর্দ্দিনে লোকের অশান্তি ও দুঃখ-দারিদ্র্য অনেকাংশে বৃদ্ধি পাইয়াছে। বর্ত্তমান শাসন নীতিকে ভাঙ্গিয়া-চুরিয়া নূতনভাবে গড়িয়া তুলিতে না পারিলে এই গতানুগতির পথ অনুসরণ করিয়া দেশের মঙ্গল বিধানের কোন আশাই করা যায় না। সদস্য মহোদয়গণ বর্ত্তমানে বাজেটের বিভিন্ন "আইটেমের" প্রতি লক্ষ্য করুন।

বাংলার পুলিশের ব্যায় বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে ২ কোটি ৩০ লক্ষ ৭৬ হাজার টাকা। এই বাবদে গত বৎসর বোম্বাই-প্রদেশে ব্যায় হইয়াছে ১ কোটি ৬১ লক্ষ ৩৮ হাজার ৮ শত টাকা। যুক্ত-প্রদেশে ব্যায় হইয়াছে ১ কোটি ৬৬ লক্ষ ৫০ হাজার ৫ শত টাকা। অর্থাৎ বোম্বাই হইতে বাংলার পুলিশের ব্যায় ৮৭ লক্ষ ৫ হাজার টাকা অধিক।

(Here the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULI: পূর্বতন মাননীয় Commerce মন্ত্রীমহাশয় ও বর্ত্তমান অর্থ মন্ত্রীমহাশয় বলেছেন - We must be ready and prepared to take our due share in the burden of the war

যদিও এই war আমাদের নয়, আমাদের সঙ্গে এর কোন সম্পর্ক নেই, দেশের অগণিত বুভুক্ষু কৃষক ও শ্রমিকের সঙ্গে এর কোন সম্পর্ক নেই তথাপি এই লড়াইয়ের জন্য আমাদের গভর্ণমেণ্টের সাহায্য কোত্তে হবে একথা আমাদের স্বদেশী মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বোলেছেন। আমাদের মন্ত্রীমহাশয়েরা হোচ্ছেন এখানে যে বিদেশী শাসন চোলছে তারই custodian বা পাহারাদার। ইংরাজের পাহারাদাররূপে তাঁরা এখানে আছেন সেই জন্যই আজকে Burden of war এর কথা Budget এ উল্লেখ করা হোয়েছে। আর একটা জিনিষ আমি লক্ষ্য কোরেছি এই বাজেটে বাংলা গভর্ণমেন্টের আয় হোচ্ছে ১৩ কোটি টাকা আর ব্যয় হোচ্ছে ১৪ কোটি টাকা। এই ১৪ কোটি টাকা ব্যয়ে এতবড় বাংলাদেশের গভর্ণমেণ্ট পরিচালিত হয়। কিন্তু Europe এ বাংলাদেশের আয়তন ও জন সংখ্যা সম্পন্ন এমন অনেক দেশ আছে যেমন France, England প্রভৃতি যে সব দেশের আয় এর চেয়ে ঢের বেশী এবং তারা অনায়াসে বড় বড় যুদ্ধ চালাতে পারে। শুধু তাই নয়, England এর এক একটি বড় Municipality র আয়ও বাংলার আয়ের চেয়ে ঢের বেশী। অথচ বাংলার এমনই দুরবস্থা যে এত বড় দেশকে England শাসন এবং শোষণ কোর্চ্ছে গত ১৫০ বৎসর যাবৎ, যার ফলে এদেশের দারিদ্র্য এবং দুর্দ্দশার সীমা নেই।

অথচ আমাদের দেশের স্বদেশী মন্ত্রী বোলেছেন আমাদের glorious destiny হোচ্ছে এই সাম্রাজ্যবাদী যুদ্ধে England কে সাহায্য করা।

সেই মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের এত সাহস হবে না আজ জাতির পক্ষ থেকে demand করা যারা এতকাল আমাদের national wealth শোষণ কোরেছে সেটা তাদের কাছ থেকে ফিরিয়ে আনা হোক।

এদেশের national wealth এখন ইংরেজের হাতে। ইংরাজের কলকারখানাকে nationalise করবার কথায় বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী বোধ হয় ভীত হন। তাঁরা হয়ত বোলবেন যে এর নাম Expropriation অর্থাৎ যাঁরা এতকাল ধরে দরিদ্র কৃষক ও শ্রমিকের ধন-সম্পত্তি শোষণ কোরেছেন তাঁদের নিকট হোতে সেই সব ধন-সম্পত্তি ফিরিয়ে আনার নাম হবে Expropriation. কিন্তু বাস্তবিক পক্ষে তা নয়। এর একমাত্র অর্থ হোতে পারে নিজেদের ন্যায্য অধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠিত করা।

আজকে বাংলাদেশের Budget কি কোরে ভাল হবে। বিদেশীরা যা নিয়ে গেছে তাদের কাছ থেকে তা ফিরিয়ে আনতে হবে। দেশের বুভুক্ষু জনসাধারণ খেতে পাচ্ছে না। তাদের পানীয় জলের অভাব। তাদের শিক্ষার কোন সুযোগ নেই। অথচ এই সব অভাব-অভিযোগের প্রতিকারের জন্য কোন বরাদ্দ করা হয় নাই। যে দেশের এমনি অবস্থা সে দেশের পুলিশ Budget এর ব্যয়াধিক্যের প্রতি লক্ষ্য করুন। এর একমাত্র কারণ এইসব বুভুক্ষু, অসন্তুষ্ট জনসাধারণকে ঠেকিয়ে রাখবার জন্য পুলিশের প্রয়োজন।

আমি মন্ত্রীমহাশয়দের স্মরণ করিয়ে দিচ্ছি, আমাদের দেশে বৈপ্লবিক হাওয়া এসেছে—জনসাধারণ আর সহ্য কোর্ত্তে পার্ছে না—ক্ষুধার জ্বালায় তারা অগ্রসর হোয়ে আসছে। তাদের সাম্প্রদায়িক ধুয়া তুলে ঠেকিয়ে রাখা যাবে না। মুসলমানরা হিন্দুর জমির ধান কেটে নিয়ে যাচ্ছে এই সাম্প্রদায়িক অজুহাত দেওয়া চলবে না। এই যে অগণিত হিন্দু-মুসলমান শ্রমিক এবং কৃষক তারা এগিয়ে এসে ধনিকের বাড়ী দখল কোরবে, মন্ত্রীদের বাড়ী দখল কোরবে।

Eastern Frontier Rifles এর বরাদ্দ বাড়ান হোয়েছে কিন্তু তার-দ্বারা এদের ঠেকান যাবে না। পুলিশ এবং সৈন্য তারাও বিক্ষুব্ধ। ১৬।১৮ টাকা মাইনেতে তারা নিজের এবং পরিবারের অন্ন সংস্থান কোর্ত্তে পার্ছে না—

(Here the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has received congratulations from many quarters in this House, but I hope he will not grudge if I withhold mine for there is not much in the Budget to congratulate him upon. I shall reserve them for the future when it will be possible for us to congratulate him wholeheartedly and not in an artificial manner.

Before I proceed to discuss the actual Budget statement, I intend to speak a few words about the reply which came from Mr. Siddiqi, the hero of civil war, if I may be permitted to describe him as such. Sir, we were made to feel the vehemence of his reply, but we failed to find any force in it inasmuch as there was no refutation of the charges that were levelled against the Ministry by the ex-Finance Minister. May I point out to him that if there is any defect or blame in the Budget, the greatness of the defect or the seriousness of the blame in the Budget would remain the same whoever points it out—it matters not if it was pointed out by the ex-Finance Minister. The honourable Mr. Siddiqi (Cries of "Not Hon'ble Mr. Siddiqi.") was accusing Mr. Sarker that he was the creator of these defects in the Budget. But I see no reason why there has not been any attempt made by the present Finance Minister to cure those defects before presenting the Budget in this House.

In criticising the Budget I must admit that there are proposals for grants in the Budget which, though inadequate in comparison to the magnitude of the needs, are no doubt laudable. They are proposals for an annual grant of Rs. 10,000 for the Jadavpur Tubercular Hospital, Rs. 26,000 and Rs. 28,500 respectively for the establishment of Union Board Farms and Demonstration Centres, for Land Mortgage Banks,

and for prevention of blindness and so on. As I have mentioned these, I must also mention that there are omissions in respect of allotments that deserve our attention. Both the Opposition Leader and the ex-Finance Minister have mentioned that fact, viz., the withdrawal of the grant to Visvabharati. Though I do not very much complain about the allotments here or the omission of allotments there, I am inclined to request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to reconsider——

(The member having reached the time-limit at this stage, resumed his seat.)

Mr. BIRAT CHANDRA MANDAL: Sir, before I actually enter into the discussion of the present Budget, I intend to say something regarding the Budgets of previous years. If we remember the pre-Reform days, at that time the Government of Bengal wanted to look to the interests of the European community alone. When the Morley-Minto Reforms came into being we find that the Government of Bengal began to think of the Caste Hindu interests as well. After that, if we take the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, we would find that not only the European interests, not only the Caste Hindu interests but also the Muhammadan interests were taken into consideration. Next we come to the present Reforms. We find that in the India Act of 1935 the Government have been asked by the Parliament to consider the conditions of the Scheduled Castes as well. Towards the end of the Poona Pact—I think it is section 9 of the Pact—it has been clearly indicated by the Parliament that the Government must take proper care to allot an adequate sum of money for the education of the Scheduled Castes. Sir, I think everyone in this House will agree with me that the Scheduled Castes of Bengal are the most backward so far as education is concerned, and we find that during the last three years attempts have been made by Government to do something for the Scheduled Castes. In the Budget of 1938-39 a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs was provided. Although it was not a large sum sufficient to cope with the educational needs of the Scheduled Castes, still Government tried to do something. Why was the sum not spent *in toto*? The ex-Finance Minister has read out a list of items in the Budget which were passed but were not spent. I would like to point out to you that this was due to his ingenious brain. The ex-Finance Minister made profession of unfathomed love for the Scheduled Castes in this House, but while he was working in the Secretariat he was doing quite the reverse. I have found the Education Department very honest and sincere. I have found the Hon'ble the Chief Minister acting properly. I have found the Secretary to Government in the Education Department acting honestly. I have found the Director of Public Instruction acting properly. I have also found the members of the Scheduled Castes Education Committee working properly. I have found the Special

Officer, who is a competent man, working properly. But when a proposal of a scheme was sent to the ex-Finance Minister for sanction after being passed by the Scheduled Castes Education Committee, what happened? The ex-Finance Minister neglected the cause of the Scheduled Castes in such a way that months after months, sometimes for six months, he remained silent, and no reply could be had from the Finance Department. This is how he baffled the purpose of the Budget sanctioned in the year 1938. Five lakhs had been sanctioned but the amount could not be spent and the Education Department could not do proper justice to the Scheduled Castes only because of the ex-Finance Minister. Sir, you can understand from the confessions. The cat is out of the bag. From his confessions we can understand that his confessions are worse than the confessions of Lord Byron. (Laughter.)

Regarding the present Budget, I cannot support it because this is not a Budget at all. The present Finance Minister, although he is a great scholar, a man of great ambition and culture and all that, but so far as his feelings towards the Scheduled Castes are concerned I must declare that they are not good. If you look at the Budget you will immediately find that he has done nothing for the education of the Scheduled Castes. But we may take into consideration the fact that in the course of the preparation of his Budget he has lost his only son. But we must declare that from the point of view of the Scheduled Castes the Budget is the worst possible and I say that it is not a Budget at all and should be thrown into a dust bin.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the opening speech of the honourable the Leader of the Opposition, the note of constructive opposition raised by him has been sounded in the speeches of members from the different sections of the House. The Budget has been subjected to scathing castigation not only from the Opposition benches, but my colleagues on the Coalition benches have also come out with criticisms of a most vital and fundamental character. Discontent and disappointment have been voiced on the floor of the House from the Coalition benches which have considerably lightened my task in winding up the debate from this side of the House.

Sir, here is a Budget presented before us which has failed to earn the blessings of any section of this House. I remember, Sir, that members from the European Group who have spoken on the Budget have sounded a note of warning. That warning has evidently been addressed to those members of the Coalition Group whose importunities have often troubled the Finance Department and the other departments, (Cries of "Question! question!" from the Coalition Benches) and have been responsible for those dole budgets which have been the lot of this province to witness for the last three years. If this warning from the European Group succeeds in achieving its purpose and can

even to some extent keep such importunities under control, it will not have gone in vain.

Sir, a notable contribution to the debate has come from my honourable friend, Mr Nalini Ranjan Sarker. He has given before this House a long and significant catalogue of the defects of this Budget. He has also pointed out the failure of the Government in implementing their promises as disclosed by the Budgets of the previous years; and in that way, his speech has thrown a remarkable sidelight upon the working of the Finance Department and the other departments of the Government, which to us, ordinary mortals, were not disclosed till yesterday.

Sir, we in the past have joined issue with Mr. Sarker when he was holding the Finance portfolio of the Government of Bengal. We also have pointed out in the past that his Budgets were nothing better than dole Budgets, devoid of plans and schemes for the development of the province which alone could bring some succour to the masses. Those were the criticisms which were levelled in the years past against the Budgets presented by him. To-day we are gratified to find that after he has been freed from the trammels of office, Mr Sarker has placed before this House his criticisms along with ours, and he has brought forward before this House such support as he can accord to us from his position to-day in this House which was not possible for him in those previous years It has been established in the course of the discussion that these dole Budgets which it has been our lot to witness year after year were intended for the purpose of making elaborate provision of huge sums of money for some beneficent scheme or other, but the money was never meant to be spent or the scheme carried into effect. Sir, it has been our lot to witness that for the purpose of silencing criticism with regard to certain provisions in the Budget upon which the Ministry had set its heart, other provisions of a make-believe character have been made which never had been intended to be given effect to in the course of the year. That has been a most noticeable feature of the Budgets presented before the House year after year.

My honourable friend, Mr. Siddiqi, has come forward with his castigation of Mr. Sarker. He has, in his usual strain of vituperation and invective aimed at those who stand up to oppose the present Government, come down upon the devoted head of Mr. Sarker. His criticism would have been more to the purpose, would have been more helpful to the House, if he could have pointed out one single instance in which the obstructive attitude of the Finance Department was responsible for the withholding of any funds with regard to any scheme which had been fully developed and for which the machinery was waiting to put it into execution. That would have been far more to the point. Invectives, I know, is the special forte of Mr. Siddiqi; that is

his special province. He is the Traducer-General of the Opposition of this House, but that does not carry him further.

May I, Sir, now point out to this House one or two matters on which there is a strange and ominous silence in the present year's Budget? Take the question of the salt industry of Bengal. It is well known that the Government of India decided several years ago to earmark and allot to this province a substantial portion of the additional salt duty for the development of the salt industry in this province which has an extensive seaboard where it can very well thrive and prosper. But unfortunately, although two Special Officers were appointed for the purpose of surveying and investigating into the possibilities of the salt industry in this province, and although they have submitted a very favourable report, in the present Budget we witness a poor and miserable picture, inasmuch as no demand has been made in the Budget under the head of Salt, and the House will be deprived even of the opportunity of discussing the matter by way of cut motions. So, I submit, Sir, and I say this with a full consciousness of my responsibility—that it is criminal neglect on the part of Government to ignore the possibilities of the salt industry in Bengal which, if encouraged and established, could have brought a new era to this province, not only in the matter of preparation and consumption of indigenous salt but also in the matter of tackling the baffling problem of unemployment. Salt industry ought to be a native, indigenous, provincial industry for this province, but this neglect on the part of Government to initiate or formulate any policy or principle either for the development of private industry or for its own departmental endeavour, is responsible for retarding any forward move in this direction.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The responsibility is of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce:

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: That is the position, Sir, with regard to the salt industry. Once again look at the way Government intend to tackle the problem of malaria. A mere dole of Rs. 5 lakhs for free distribution of quinine and Rs. 2½ lakhs for anti-malarial schemes has been provided. Now along with that, one should have thought that the possibilities of developing the cinchona industry had been better attended to. We have got a well-established factory for the preparation of cinchona. If development of that factory had been contemplated, if extension of the facilities for manufacture had been provided for, we could have tackled malaria in a far more convincing manner than it is otherwise possible to do. If we are not going to spend anything for the prevention of malaria, except the paltry sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs for anti-malarial schemes for the whole province of Bengal, we could at least have made some provisions for adoption of

curative methods by larger distribution of quinine and also for the production and preparation of cheap quinine in our factory. Both ways, not only in the matter of prevention but also in the matter of cure, Government stands condemned, so far as the fight against malaria is concerned in this province.

Then, Sir, there is one other matter to which I should draw the attention of the House. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister has held out a sort of threat that this province may have to submit to fresh taxes, which, I expect, may be necessary for the purpose of satisfying their desire to dole out big sums of money to their supporters on the Coalition benches. Those sums of money are doled out—not in the interest of the province as a whole, not in the interest of any community as a whole, but in the interest of those particular members who are looking forward to their election two years hence and have got to satisfy their local supporters by means of those doles. That is the idea which is running through this Budget. I submit, Sir, that instead of holding out threats of increasing the burden of taxation in this province they could have concentrated their energies in fighting the threatened attack upon the Niemeyer Award. I submit, Sir, that if the Niemeyer Award is allowed to run its full course and allowed to attain its normal development, the additional increase in income-tax and the excess profits tax would have brought up the share of Bengal from Rs. 55 lakhs to 90 lakhs or even one crore in the coming year. By combining all these taxes which are at present in force, namely, the amusement tax, the betting tax, the electricity duty and the new tax under the Finance Act, you can get at the most half a crore of rupees. But the normal development and increase in the taxes allotted under the Neimeyer Award would have given you one full crore at a very modest computation. Why not concentrate your energies to combat the proposal to modify the Neimeyer Award by amending the Order-in-Council in Parliament? There is, I understand, a special motion tabled by Dr. Sanyal on behalf of the Congress Party to fight this proposed amendment. Can we expect Government to join with us and voice the unanimous demand of this province that the Niemeyer Award should not be touched to the detriment of this province? Bengal has suffered long enough owing to the iniquities of the Meston Award. The Montagu-Chemsford Constitution was almost reduced to a dead letter, so far as the nation-building departments were concerned, by the injquities of this monstrous Meston Award. At that time those who wanted to demolish that Constitution rejoiced in their heart of hearts that the Meston Award had done such poor justice to this province. But things have changed now and the state of affairs is different. We do not want that the province should be starved, because we have also to contribute our share in the maintenance of the nation-building departments run by the Government of Bengal. It

is for that reason that we stand to-day to oppose this threatened violation of the Niemeyer Agreement which is sought to be made in the Houses of Parliament in the coming weeks or months. Therefore, Sir, I would suggest to the House that they should bring to bear a united and combined pressure upon the Government to take up the cudgels on behalf of this province and make representations of a strong, united and unanimous character so that neither the Government of India nor the British Government can have the courage, can have the sense of injustice to deny to this province the natural results, the fruits of a gradual and normal development of the yield of the Niemeyer Award in the share of increased income-tax and excess profits tax.

These are, Sir, the general observations I had to address on this Budget. May I, Sir, as a representative of the city of Calcutta, offer one word of congratulation to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for having made a provision in the Budget for the improvement of Tolly's Nullah? That was a crying need, and fortunately the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has found the opportunity for making a provision of Rs. 1½ lakhs for that much-needed improvement I can only ask him, Sir, to reconsider the position of Government with regard to the Motor Vehicles Tax so far as the Corporation of Calcutta is concerned. Years ago the Government decided that the amount which was being derived by the Corporation from the license tax on motor vehicles at that time, namely, Rs. 4½ lakhs, should be crystallised and standardised as the final amount which the Corporation could expect from the Motor Vehicles Tax, although the number of motor vehicles in the city is going up by leaps and bounds, and although the city's roads are progressively suffering, and the burden cast upon the Corporation to maintain the roads is growing heavier from year to year. I would ask the Hon'ble the Finance Minister to reconsider the position with regard to the Corporation's share of the Motor Vehicles Tax and to increase it to a substantial extent.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Increase it!

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, the very commendable frankness and candour with which my friend the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has presented his Budget, concealing nothing and omitting nothing in the matter of defects and blemishes, have given opportunities to my friends opposite to level their criticisms at this Budget from various points of view. I may tell the House that we were prepared for all these criticisms. No Budget in this world can be expected to be perfect and for something like a perfect Budget one would have to go in for an imaginary and unreal Utopia. But Budgets are after all human productions and cannot be expected to be free from human defects and blemishes. We were also prepared not merely to listen to criticisms, sometimes unfounded and even unjust criticism, but also

to hear motives ascribed and our intentions twisted in order to suit their criticisms from a political point of view.

Now, Sir, some of our friends have raised a note of warning that there should not be any further taxation in Bengal I will presently point out to the House that not only is further taxation of some kind necessary but almost inevitable, if we are to fulfil our obligations to the people whose interests should always form our most sacred charge. I may point out to the House certain expenditure which must be entertained and for which money must be found and it will be evident that all this money can never be found except by means of additional taxation. Take the case of primary education. We are all committed to have free and compulsory primary education throughout Bengal. The question has already been discussed so often that the facts relating to primary education are fairly well known. Even at the lowest computation, assuming that a primary school with one trained teacher would cost about Rs. 40 a month, the total expenditure on primary education would go up to something like Rs. 5 crores a year

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The calculation does not seem to be just the same as that given last year.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, I have warned you several times, it is your habit to be obstructive. If there is any mistake in the calculation you can point that out when the relevant Budget head is discussed, but this is not the occasion to do so.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, this is the only occasion that I have distrubed the Hon'ble the Chief Minister. I only tried to draw your attention to the fact that this kind of reply we heard from the Hon'ble Chief Minister last year also——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. It is not my business to know whether you have heard this kind of reply once or several times. You have to listen to the Chief Minister's reply to the debate and the manner in which this reply is given. You will have to hear that. It is no use attempting to be obstructive.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I will give my friend Dr. Sanyal some idea as to how I have reached this figure. On an average, taking the number of villages in Bengal, which come to about one lakh throughout the province——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, there are not one lakh villages in Bengal.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, will you please stop interrupting? I have repeatedly told you that this is not the occasion to interject your remarks. If you go on interrupting like this I warn you that it will be my painful duty to ask you to leave the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, if the Census Report are correct then the number of villages may be taken at 90 thousand, and I took this number roughly at 1 lakh, because there are certain villages which will require two schools. On that basis if we take Rs. 40 to be the monthly cost of maintenance of each school it works out to Rs. 480 a year, and for one lakh schools—leaving out of consideration the exact number of villages—the cost will come to 4 crores and 80 lakhs. Then there is miscellaneous expenditure which would bring the total amount to 5 crores. I give up my point to a certain extent in favour of Dr. Sanyal, and I am prepared to accept a lower figure, namely, 4 crores a year. But it cannot be anywhere less than that. The Education Cess according to the Primary Education Committee would give us 1 crore and 20 lakhs in theory, but in reality——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I have an opportunity of replying if I am personally addressed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister? (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: But you are not being personally addressed by the Chief Minister.) There have been references to me personally.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Sir, you have given your ruling, but I would certainly object to Mr. Suhrawardy assuming the role of the Speaker. He must not be jibbering all the time.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: The Leader of the Opposition must control his lieutenants.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Now, Sir, whether the figure is 3 crores or 4 crores or even 5 crores, the Education Cess will not give us the amount of money that will be necessary for our primary schools. At the present moment I have got in my hand a memorandum drawn up by the members of the Mymensingh District School Board which shows that according to the calculations they have made the expenditure in that district alone will be Rs. 27,87,928 per year and the Education Cess is expected to give them only Rs. 8,96,097, which means that Mymensingh will be in deficit to the extent of about Rs. 18 lakhs. This is only about one district, and it will not be a surprise to the House to learn that even at the lowest computation we will be in a deficit of at least 2½ crores, if you take into account the necessity of the whole province. That is, Sir, as regards primary education only. Then there is adult education and there is also the question of provincialisation of the Wakf Department on which many members of the Coalition Party

and many other members of this House are very keen. Then there is the question of village dispensaries to the extent of one dispensary in each union. Then there is also the question of scholarships and stipends to poor students and then there is the scheme relating to Irrigation throughout the province.

Now, Sir, all these schemes would require more money and so far as I am concerned I feel that Bengal must have a few crores more to her present revenue in order to be able to cope with the expanding needs of the administration. Sir, it has been suggested that we should try to some extent to retrench expenditure and find some money in order to meet this increased expenditure. Sir, those who level these criticisms at us forget that according to the statute there are certain items of expenditure which must be incurred and over which we have no control. Take the case of the members of the various Imperial Services. If you abolish certain posts, it does not mean that the province is relieved of the expenditure to that extent Members of the various Imperial Services are recruited not for particular posts but to fill up vacancies in the cadre of a particular service. If you abolish the post of a Commissioner, for instance, the person who at that moment may be holding that post is not thereby dismissed He is only relieved from that post, but he will go on drawing his salary, and if you cannot find him any employment he will be drawing his salary for doing nothing. Sir, the whole trouble arises in this way. If you look at the Civil List you will find that there are several items of expenditure over which we have got no control. The only thing you can do is to catch hold of the Ministers. If you do not pay these officers you will thereby save only a few lakhs. The question is not of lakhs but of crores. Go dispassionately through the Civil List in one hand and the Budget in the other, and you will find no escape from the conclusion that, if you have to meet the expanding needs of a province like Bengal you will have to face additional taxation. There is no use shutting out that fact, it is no use saying that Bengal should not be overburdened with taxation. Unfortunately I have to admit, along with the members of the Opposition, in holding that Bengal should have some more of the money which now goes to the Central Budget or the Central Exchequer, and relieve to that extent the tax-payer in this province. But so long as no money is coming from outside, we have got to find the money ourselves. The advice is sometimes given that we should cut our coat according to the cloth. Unfortunately the coat has got to be of certain dimensions and it is now for us to find the cloth. You cannot say that you do not want primary education because the Bengal Government cannot contribute anything as it has a deficit budget. Therefore, I submit that all these warnings that have been given to us, although extremely well meant, are somewhat out of date and somewhat misplaced, because we find that in the near future we shall have to come to this House for more money. I will only point out that the Hon'ble

the Finance Minister has not said that he is going to rush taxation Bills through this House without due consideration of our needs and requirements. I am only saying that if there are people who think that Bengal can get on with her present resources without any further taxation, they are very sadly mistaken. So far as I am concerned, I will press for further taxation, if for nothing else, at least for the purpose of free and compulsory primary education in Bengal. We must have free and compulsory primary education, and I have found in the course of my tours that even the poorest people have told me that they are willing to be taxed provided they get full benefit of that money in the shape of free and compulsory primary education for their children. Now, Sir, I have heard it said by no less an authority than my friend the ex-Finance Minister that we should not impose taxation in order to balance our Budget (Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: I never said that.) or to cover any deficit in a slump period which may arise after the war. I don't think that the present Finance Minister has said anything to give any one that idea. The new taxation is not necessary to cover deficits in the slump period but, as I have pointed out, in order to meet the expanding needs of our administration, in order to meet the requirements of the nation-building departments. From that point of view I submit that the apprehension that money raised by taxation might not be profitably spent, is absolutely groundless. Then, Sir, I find that there have been criticisms as regards some items in the Budget and my friend the ex-Finance Minister has referred to Visvabharati and others. A hint has been thrown out that the Coalition Party have obstructed Government and have been instrumental for non-payment of this sum to Visvabharati or for the non-appearance of this sum in the Budget. The Coalition Party no doubt were rather unwilling to sanction this amount because in their opinion a province which could not meet the needs of the administration could not afford to sanction a grant of Rs. 25,000 particularly to a rich institution. That was the opinion held by some. But after all, we have decided to give something like that money, and I am glad to tell the House that long before the Budget was presented and criticisms levelled, we had decided to give that institution Rs. 25,000 which has been promised.

I now come to the remarks that have been made by my friend Mr. Monmohan Das regarding the Scheduled Castes. I am not going to touch on any other point because my friend, the Finance Minister, will deal with these criticisms in greater detail, but I cannot sit down without telling this House what we have been doing for the Scheduled Castes of Bengal. Sir, it will be within the recollection of this House that when my friend Mr. Monmohan Das moved his resolution for the Budget allotment of a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs, I at once agreed because I felt that some substantial step forward should be taken in order to give our Scheduled Caste friends the fullest benefit of modern education. In order to carry our ideas into effect I appointed a very highly qualified

Scheduled Caste officer as Special Officer to look after the Scheduled Castes. He has been working ceaselessly under the direction of the Director of Public Instruction, and I will read out to the House the amount of money that we have been able to spend for the purpose of Scheduled Castes alone. Let it be remembered that as the Scheduled Castes have no special institutions of their own such as senior madrassahs, junior madrassahs, maktabs, etc., they have got to take their instructions in the ordinary educational institutions of the country. There are here and there one or two schools managed by the Scheduled Castes, and we have taken particular care not merely to encourage them but also to extend their usefulness. Now, Sir, the total expenditure up to date out of the 5 lakhs of rupees for the Scheduled Castes—leaving out of account what we have done for them and for their students who have been reading in ordinary schools—comes to Rs. 1,88,416. Stipends have been given to the extent of Rs. 20,000 in 1938-39 and of a like sum in 1939-40. In 1939-40 we have spent Rs. 7,200 in the shape of scholarships to Scheduled Caste students, and we have given special grants to the extent of Rs. 39,000. We have given them at the rate of Rs. 250 as lump grant to each middle school and Rs. 500 to each high school. We have given overseas scholarships to the Scheduled Caste students at the rate of Rs. 1,200 a year. We have spent on the headquarters staff Rs. 3,524 including Rs. 389 as travelling allowance. We have given a hostel grant to the extent of Rs. 1,704. We have also given the Comilla Hostel Rs. 1,150 in two years, and the school stipends come to Rs. 72,000 and these have been placed with the Divisional Inspectors and the Inspectresses for disbursement during the year beginning from 1st January.

As regards the balance we have made out a scheme which we shall follow. It is as under:—

	Rs.
(*a*) Grant for college hostel building for Barisal ...	30,000
(*b*) Grant for college hostel building for Comilla ...	20,000
(*c*) Building grant to high English schools ...	75,000
(*d*) Building grant to middle English schools ...	75,000
(*e*) Special grant to high English and middle English schools ...	11,000
(*f*) Additional grant for hostel in Comilla ...	5,000
(*g*) Grant for hostel building ...	20,000
(*h*) Slates and books for poor primary school pupils ...	10,000
(*i*) Maintenance grant to Scheduled Caste hostels attached to schools and colleges for two years ...	16,000
(*j*) Stipends to Scheduled Caste students preparing for the B.T. degree ...	1,080 (for one year)

Now, I submit that my friend Mr. Monmohan Das would be better advised to go for a few minutes to the Writers' Buildings and to sit down with the Special Officer Mr. Raj Kumar Das to find out what actually we have done for the Scheduled Castes of this province. I have said so often that I don't think I need repeat it that for various reasons—not entirely political—that we are absolutely of the opinion that utmost efforts should be made to bring the Scheduled Castes into line with the other advanced communities in Bengal. Be it not thought that we are only angling for their votes. Unfortunately, two-thirds of the Scheduled Castes votes are even now lost to us, but we do not look on that nor do we look on the one-third of them who are voting with us. But even if the entire body of the Scheduled Castes members were to vote against us, we will look to the interests and claims of the Scheduled Castes people and do for them what we have been doing for our own community, because we feel that they require help and assistance and they have a legitimate claim on us which we cannot afford to ignore.

I do not think, I should take up the time of the House, but to everyone I would make an earnest appeal, whether he is a member of the Coalition Party, or a member of the European Group or one of my friends in the Opposition. As I have said, the Budget can never be a perfect Budget and there are difficulties in the way of framing Budgets which they alone know who have to do the task. One thing for which we should strive is to combine and co-ordinate the efforts in order to get the money to enable Bengal to be a happy and prosperous land and to reach her glorious destiny.

Now, Sir, Bengal is a province which has, with a population of over 50 millions and an area of about 88,000 square miles, to get on with an income of 13 crores only with certain items of her expenditure over which, as I have said, we have no control. Whereas, Madras with a population of only 46 millions has got an income of 15 crores of rupees and Bombay with half the population of Bengal has got an income of nearly 14 crores. It is time that we should put our heads together and co-operate and find out ways and means to find money for working the nation-building departments for providing primary education to the masses, for providing villages with dispensaries and irrigation works, for excavating rivers and canals and for doing all those things and works which will go to alleviate the sufferings of humanity. Let us all work together and try to make two blades of grass grow where one grew before, and, I am sure, we will thereby be rendering the greatest service to humanity and for which we all can justly be proud. (Loud applause.)

Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, may I ask the Hon'ble the Chief Minister about one matter? Allegations have been made by different members of the Coalition Party that the Finance Department

was responsible for sitting tight over the files dealing with budgeted grants for certain schemes as a sort of obstructionist policy. If the Hon'ble the Chief Minister or the Hon'ble the Finance Minister do not dissociate themselves from such allegations and remain silent on the matter, that would be very unfair to me and I may be compelled to disclose things to prove that that was not the case.

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Sir, may I request the Hon'ble the Chief Minister to clear up one matter? Did I understand him to say that he has decided that the grant of Rs. 25,000 to the Viswa-Bharati, which was provided in the Budget for 1939-40, will be paid and that in the Budget for 1940-41 a grant of Rs. 25,000 to the same institution will be provided?

(The Hon'ble Mr H S. Suhrawardy rose to speak.)

Mr. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE: Sir, may I have my answer from the Hon'ble Chief Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: You will get the reply from me.

Sir, after the speech of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister on the main features of the Budget, very little really remains to be said by the Finance Minister because the Finance Minister is responsible not so much for the details of the Budget of the various departments as for the structure of the Budget itself. I am, Sir, gratified to find that many honourable members have tried to exonerate me from the responsibility of the Budget, probably because of the fact that no more trenchant criticism has been levelled against me than I made in my written speech. I have pointed out to the House that I am dissatisfied with the Budget because I am dissatisfied with the state of the finance of Bengal But before I deal with this a little bit more fully, I would like to dispose of a certain point which has been raised by Mr. Niharendu Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Pratul Chandra Ganguly and Mr. Bankim Mukerjee on the question of the war. Deliberately, I am sorry to say, my speech has been misquoted on the point. I will refer to my speech once more. I will read out that portion—"We must be ready and prepared to take our due share in the burden of the war should events move nearer home and involve us more directly and closely." The proviso has been eliminated by them. Now, Sir, Mr. Dutta Mazumdar made a fiery speech. This is really the speech which he wanted to deliver on the War Resolution and which he could not deliver on that occasion because he did not get the opportunity. But if there is one speech which justifies all the support that we can give to the British Government during the war, it is that speech of Mr. Dutta Mazumdar. Had he been in Italy, he would not have been allowed to enter the precincts of this Assembly. Had he been in Russia, he would have

been court-martialled and shot before dawn. Had he been in Germany, his home would have been violated and he would have been heard of no more. But in this House, he is allowed to make that speech and get away with it, and moves about free and unscathed. It is not for persons like him that I said that "we must be ready to bear the burden of war." If I wanted someone to make a speech which will excite the people and lead them to paths of violence, if I wanted somebody to make a speech to excite the worst passions of a mob, I will call upon Mr. Dutta Mazumdar to do so, but if I wanted somebody to make a sacrifice of one's life, one's liberty in a great cause, I would never call upon him to make that sacrifice. It will not be for him but it will be for brave men who are prepared to make sacrifices to help during the war. I feel that should unfortunately the war come nearer home and we are involved in the war closely, we will have no alternative but to call upon the brave people of the soil to come out and not people like Mr. Dutta Mazumdar.

Sir, may I now come to the main subject-matter of my speech? I am glad that I have been able to rouse this House and the members of this House from their somnolence so far as the budgetary position of Bengal is concerned. I did not paint a gloomy picture. I only used the word "gloomy" in the last paragraph of my speech. But reading between the lines, there are many things which can inspire us to hope provided we are ready to make sacrifices. I feel, Sir, that our finances are in a muddle. We have had a very bad deal from the Government of India. We have had a very bad deal in the financial award and whatever anyone may say that we have not taken up any big scheme of construction, it must be remembered that the finances of our country do not permit us to take up any big scheme unless the financial condition of the province improves. That is the point that I wanted to bring home to the members of this House, and I do hope that until that happens, we will not hear all these criticisms that we should have taken up big schemes in our efforts to rehabilitate the condition of the people of the soil.

Sir, the difference between the budgetary position of 1936-37 and the present position is that nominally we find an increase, so far as the revenue is concerned, of Rs. 1 crore and 15 lakhs. Now Sir, this does not present the full picture. There were certain debt charges which had to be paid by the previous Government and they were cancelled. These amount to Rs. 33 lakhs which being added to Rs. 1 crore 15 lakhs, the total comes to Rs. 1 crore and 48 lakhs. Now, Sir, out of this sum a very large portion goes to the expenses of the Constitution, namely, of this House and the Legislative Council, which comes to Rs. 15 lakhs, leaving Rs. 1,33,00,000. Then we have to deduct from that certain other expenditure which can properly be debitable to revenue account, namely, the sum of expenditure which is met from the Road Development Account. This is 34 lakhs in 1940-41 as against

Rs. 18 lakhs in 1936-37, i.e., an increase of Rs. 16 lakhs this year. There is one other receipt of a similar nature in 1940-41, namely, the receipt of Rs. 7 lakhs under the head "Extraordinary charges in India" for war charges. This receipt merely reimburses the Provincial Government for charges incurred in connection with the war. Thus after deducting 16 lakhs to be met from the Road Development Account and the receipt of Rs. 7 lakhs on account of war charges, we are left with a revenue of one crore and ten lakhs.

Now, Sir, to this you have to add roughly the annual pensionary charges which are 22 lakhs this year. This is an unavoidable expenditure, and the balance at the disposal of Government, therefore, is only 88 lakhs. Now out of this amount of 88 lakhs, 35 lakhs have gone to the Education Department, i.e., nearly 40 per cent. At the time when we took office, all the various departments, particularly the nation-building departments, were starved to such an extent that it was absolutely necessary, that if we wanted them to grow and expand we had to spend the money at our disposal to put these departments in order before taking up large scale schemes. As for example, we realise that there is necessity for the expansion of Debt Settlement Boards. But would you say that before we take up the expansion of Debt Settlement Boards, Co-operative Societies, Public Health, Medical and Agriculture we should devote ourselves only to primary education? The time for primary education will come, but in the meantime these various departments have got to be resuscitated and we have to spend money for that purpose. I am comparing the figures of 1936-37 with our figures for the present year. It shows that there have been increased provisions of Rs. 22 lakhs on Debt Conciliation, Rs. 15 lakhs on Irrigation, Rs. 14 lakhs on Public Health, Rs. 7 lakhs on Agriculture, Rs. 7 lakhs on Medical and Rs. 5 lakhs on Industries. You can now understand where the money has gone, and we have got—you must admit—to advance all along the line. You cannot starve Public Health for the sake of Industries; you cannot starve Industries for the sake of Debt Conciliation, and so on. You have got to raise the condition of the people in various ways and in all departments. The time has now come to embark on bigger schemes, and I propose with the help of this House to come up here from time to time in order that we may take up these bigger schemes.

It has been remarked that there are many items which have been eliminated from this Budget. It is true that they have been eliminated, because we have gone back somewhat on the policy which has hitherto been adopted, namely, providing money which cannot be spent later, and I want, Sir, that before we provide money the scheme should be properly framed and worked out, so that we can come up before the House for a grant in a clear-cut manner and spend the money in a proper manner. It is for this reason that they have been eliminated, and I have not the slightest doubt that we may have to come up for a

supplementary grant for many more schemes than have hitherto been usual.

Now, Sir, with due respect may I refer to the criticism of Mr. N. R. Sarker? I do so with hesitation, because I have respect for him and his ability and for the depth and width of his ideas and vision, but I must confess—although Mr. Sarker has discovered a certain amount of confusion of thought in my Budget statement—I too find confusion of thought in his speech. I never for a moment stated that immediately after the war there will be a slump. Everyone knows that the impetus that is given by a war to general development continues for some time The word "immediately," which Mr. Sarker used five times, has never been used by me in my speech. If I have used it, I must say that it was never in my contemplation that immediately after the war is over, there will be a slump. But slump does follow a war; and although Mr. Sarker has attempted to give reasons that there may not be a slump after this war because of protection instead of free trade, still I think that it will be an extremely short-sighted policy for anyone to take and conclude that because there exists a difference, a slump will not follow the war.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: It has been provided in this Budget.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, it is not provided in this Budget.

Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: You have provided for a depression which comes after 10 years.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, I have not provided for a slump in the Budget. In this year's Budget I have only stated that a depression does follow a war. There is no provision for a slump in this year's Budget for the simple reason that the war has not yet ended and we do not know when the war is going to end.

One other point has been raised, Sir——

(At this stage Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal was about to make an interruption.)

Mr. SPEAKER: How many warnings do you require, Dr. Sanyal? (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: As I was saying, Sir, another point has been raised that taxation ought not to be raised for

the purpose of reserves. On the other hand, Sir, I do not know whether it is against financial policy or not, but I do think at the same time that we ought not to embark on large scale measures without adequate reserves—whether taxation should be levied for the purpose is a different matter. There is of course no doubt that every Government should have a reserve to fall back upon in cases of emergency. But can you build up a reserve with a deficit Budget, and necessary expenditure on nation-building departments which cannot be met from the ordinary revenue income? But for this extra expenditure we would not have a deficit, and we need not draw on our opening balances. It has been stated from all sides of the House that the expenditure on these items is not enough. I would very much like to have more. But as the honourable members will see, the balance that we must keep and the balance which we think will be left as the closing balance is far too narrow for us to deplete our reserves still further. Mr. Sassoon has in a fairly well-reasoned speech criticised the Budget, and has urged arguments which I had never expected him to advance. He has stated that there is no real deficit at all because we gave a loan of about 1 crore 17 lakhs and it is on account of that loan that this deficit has occurred. But, Sir, that is not so, because the loans that were given do not find a place in the Budget, namely, on the Revenue Receipt or the Revenue Expenditure side. The loans are dealt with in the Debt and Deposit Section and 60 lakhs of Treasury Bills that we will have to pay will come out of the Debt and Deposit Section, for which reason there is going to be a deficit of 22 lakhs; the 57 lakhs deficit that we have on the Revenue Receipts and Expenditure side, are totally irrespective of the loans that have been advanced.

Sir, I could continue to talk in this manner and deal with the various items of the Budget, but I will not do so, because I think most of the criticisms levelled by the members on the other side of the House have been ill-informed and are bereft of any constructive ideas and it is not necessary for me to meet them, but I do not expect as a matter of fact anything different, as I do not think that the Hon'ble ex-Finance Minister expected any different treatment from that side of the House when he was speaking from these benches. But, Sir, there are certain specific matters which have been referred to and I should like to deal with them. Let us, Sir, first take the speech of the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition desires to sing his own song, dream his own dream, lie in his own bed, live in his own house and to breathe his own air and so on, but the Leader of the Opposition has a great flair for quoting from foreign authors and adopts their ideas. He has quoted from Michael Collins with reference to Ireland and wants to apply the remarks to India. We find in his quotation from Michael Collins about Ireland that under the British rule there has been a decrease in population but that is hardly applicable to India. Increase in population in the country may be construed as an idea of a certain degree of prosperity. The Leader of the Opposition has stated

that the cost of General Administration should be reduced. Now, Sir, if he takes the trouble and reads the Budget, which, I may point out to the House, he has not done, nor has the ex-Finance Minister done so, nor have any of the other members who have spoken about the Viswabharati done so, he will find that the increase in the cost of General Administration is not due really to an increase in the cost of the General Administration but by reason of the fact that the 3 lakhs grant for Rural Reconstruction has been allotted to that Budget. There are also various items of this nature which have been included in the General Administration which have really nothing to do with any increase in the Establishment. With regard to the Administration of Justice, there has similarly been no increase. If you look at the figures you will find that there has been no increase in the cost—at least nothing substantial; although an increase would be justified because recruitment to that department ceased for two years. But the real reason why it appears that there has been an increase is that the last two years we received certain sums of money from the Assam Government on account of the price of land which we have purchased for the extension of the High Court; as there is no such item in this year's Budget there is an apparent increase in the cost while as a matter of fact there is none.

Coming to the war expenditure, Sir, it has been argued that this money ought not to come out of the Budget of the Government of Bengal. I may explain, Sir, that it will not come out of our Budget. Every single pie that we expend on war we will get out of the India Government. The Government of India has taken the responsibility of reimbursing the Government of Bengal in this matter. Now if the same honourable gentleman and other gentlemen including the ex-Finance Minister are good enough to turn to page 282 of the Estimates they will find that another sum of Rs. 25,000 has been allotted to Biswabharati, and I cannot understand why there has been so much criticism, annoyance and anger when the provision is there; whether that sum will be granted or not is another matter, but so far as the Budget is concerned the provision is there. It depends entirely on the will of the House, and I am not sure what the will of the House will be. We shall of course bow to the will of the House whatever that will may be with regard to that demand. Sir, I had much to say but as there is not much time I shall refer to the other matters as rapidly as possible. Khan Sahib Hamiduddin Ahmed and several other members have stated that there must be more money for primary education, particularly for those districts where primary education has been introduced. Only 5 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimate this year and no bigger amount could be put in because at the present moment we are not able to estimate what are going to be the requirements of the various districts in this connection, but if a proper scheme is forthcoming and if the money can be spent in this year I can assure

the honourable members that that money will be found even if it is not there in the Budget now.

Honourable members will have noticed one great hiatus and that is that there is no comprehensive scheme for rural credit. I do feel that something will have to be done in that regard. There are various aspects of the question. Some members think that it is demoralising the countryside by giving cheap and easy credit to the agriculturists while some others are of opinion that in special instances of great hardship this money should be provided. This matter has been considered and is being considered by Government and I hope that during the tenure of my office, I will have the privilege of placing before the House a proper scheme for rural credit before the year is out.

As regards the education of the Scheduled Castes community the Hon'ble the Chief Minister has explained what the actual position is. We have done one thing for the Scheduled Castes which is unprecedented in the history of budgeting. For the education of the Scheduled Castes a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs was allotted, a great portion of this money has not been spent. Where money is not spent the usual practice is that it lapses, but so far as the money set apart for the Scheduled Castes is concerned we have funded it, and the money is always available; they need have no fear with regard to that. I am surprised to hear Mr Birat Chandra Mandal say that I do not like the Scheduled Castes. Sir, I am extremely sorry that he should have said so, because I think that I have a great many friends among the Scheduled Castes who know that whenever I think of my own community—because it is a depressed community—I always think of the Scheduled Castes at the same time, and they are not distant from my mind. When we think of improving the conditions of the people there is nothing in my mind, no scheme in my mind, in which the Scheduled Castes people are not associated. I am mentioning this specifically because Mr. Birat Chandra Mandal has specifically stated that I don't like the Scheduled Castes or something to that effect.

As regards the criticisms made about rural reconstruction, the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the department will deal with them; but I would like to say one word before I sit down because in certain quarters a cry has been raised on behalf of a section of the province. I wish to refer to the speech of my esteemed friend Mr. Abul Quasem who spoke on behalf of West Bengal. He said that there did not seem to be any indication that the Howrah-Hooghly Scheme would ever fructify. Of course it will, and the Hon'ble Minister for Irrigation assures me that he will come up before this House soon for the fixation of rates so that he may take up the matter. I may inform the House that we do not look at any scheme from the point of view of any section of the province, from the point of view of East Bengal, West Bengal, North Bengal or South Bengal. That is never done. If, for example, we spend about Rs. 4 crores on the Howrah-Hooghly Scheme in West

Bengal, is it to be contended that as this money has been spent in West Bengal, hereafter no more money should be spent there? We shall be driven to this position, if we have to divide the money spent by this Government over all these various parts of the province. Are we going to find out how much money is spent on education in West Bengal, in East Bengal, in North Bengal and in South Bengal? I think not, and I do hope that whatever scheme will be placed before this House, it will be viewed not from any sectional point of view, but from the point of view of the province as a whole.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister after starving the province by his Budget is also starving its representatives by his speech.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Before I sit down, I would like to refer to the point raised by Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi about the Land Revenue Commission. I have not the least doubt that this Ministry will deal with the Report of the Land Revenue Commission most adequately and as soon as possible. Obviously no money can be provided in this Budget regarding it because we do not know what the final orders will be on the matter. But we hope, Sir, that it will be done, and it will result in the condition of this province being much more prosperous than it is now.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On Monday we are required to discuss the Jute Regulation Bill. May I submit that in connection with the Jute Ordinance we have already tabled motions disapproving the Ordinance and that we should be given an opportunity of discussing them before the Jute Regulation Bill is taken up by this House? On the last occasion when a similar thing was proposed, many members submitted that the Report of the Jute Enquiry Committee should be in the hands of the members before we are required to apply our minds on this Bill. May I again request in the same manner that the Report be made available before the Jute Bill is taken up?

Mr. SPEAKER: As a matter of fact, so far as this is concerned, I have written to the Home Department to aliot a day for this. I have not yet heard from them. But the Hon'ble Minister concerned is here and he can do the needful.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: So far as the Report is concerned, I shall see to that, but as regards the other question, that will come up in due course and it will be discussed then.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The House has the statutory right) declare its disapproval of the Ordinance, and the Ministry should not ek protection behind the privilege of allotting a day for discussion.

Mr. SPEAKER: That can be met by changing the procedure of usiness.

Adjournment.

It being 1-25 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Monday, the 26th 'ebruary, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

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